

TOP GHOSTS: 300 Compelling Apparitions

Mark Mahin

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This book is a collection of authentic accounts of apparitions seen by various people. The great majority of the accounts meet a high standard of evidence because they fall into one of two categories:

- (1) Category 1: unexpected apparitions of a person, seen by some witness who was not aware that the person had died at the time the apparition was seen.
- (2) Category 2: apparitions that were witnessed by more than one person at the same time.

Accounts that fall into either of these categories are more convincing as evidence than an account in which a single person claims to see an apparition of someone who he knew had died. While it is conceivable that someone might have a hallucination of seeing the apparition of someone he knew had died long ago, it is very unlikely that someone would coincidentally have a hallucination of someone dying, at the same time that such a death was occurring, unknown to the apparition witness. For example, if John does not know that Mary is on the brink of death, and John reports seeing an apparition of Mary, at the same that Mary died, the chance of such a coincidence is probably less than 1 in 1000. The more cases there are of these “time coincidence” apparition sightings, the stronger the evidence that such sightings are not mere hallucinations, but are instead sightings of some paranormal phenomenon, such as the survival of a human soul or spirit.

Similarly, there is but a very tiny chance of two or more people having a mere hallucination of seeing the apparition of the same person at the same time. For such a thing to occur because of a mere psychiatric reason to two people at the same time (with them reporting seeing the same apparition) would seem to require a coincidence with a chance of less than 1 in a million. The more such cases that exist, the stronger the evidence that such sightings are not mere hallucinations, but are instead sightings of some paranormal phenomenon, such as the survival of a human soul or spirit.

In this book I will present about 200 of these Category 1 cases, and about 100 of these Category 2 cases. I will give links to the original sources in which these accounts appeared. If you are reading this book online at www.archive.org, through its online interface that does not require a .pdf file download, the links will not take you to the original sources of the accounts. If you want to read the accounts in their original sources, then download this book as a .pdf file. From that .pdf file, you will be able to use all of the links I have provided. Or, you can get the same material in this book at my site www.futureandcosmos.blogspot.com, by clicking on the label “Apparitions.”

Mark Mahin

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In the posts below I have described about 200 cases of people who reported seeing an apparition of someone who had died, but whose death was unknown to the person seeing the apparition:

25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death

25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death

Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death
Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"
They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death

More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions

Even More Cases of Veridical Apparitions

When Apparitions Serve as Announcements

Still More Cases of Veridical Apparitions

When Apparitions Act as News Bulletins

Below are some additional cases of this type.

In the book *More Glimpses of the World Unseen* by Frederick George Lee, we have this account on pages 142-143:

"Just as I turned towards the summer-house, I saw my wife's brother standing within the door of it. He looked hard at me, but did not speak. I looked hard at him, wondering why he had not gone straight to the house, and then went up and shook him by the hand. I

grasped at what seemed to be his hand, but found myself holding nothing ; and in a few seconds, not more than twenty, he appeared to have altogether vanished... Two days afterwards, I found that he had died suddenly of heart-disease while on a tour in France, about the time that I had seen his spirit ; and I learnt this by a letter from his widow, which reached me by the second post of the Monday following the Saturday upon which he had died."

On [page 482 of Volume 18](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have an account by Alice Davidson Baxter that she saw an apparition of her soldier brother:

"There , in full view , stood my brother , Lieutenant Joseph M . Davidson. He gazed at me for a second or two , and disappeared. I saw the upper portion of his body perfectly , and he looked at me sorrowfully and earnestlyOn the night of November 26th, say three weeks later, my father was advised by the War Department that our boy had been killed in action on the 6th of November. I said " No , it was on the 4th , ' and when asked my reasons for doubting the accuracy of the Department telegram, I related the incident of the night of the 4th."

Alice's father corroborates this account, and says, "Later telegrams , confirming the death of our son , gave the date , November 4th."

In his long fascinating book *Ghosts: True Encounters with the World Beyond* by Hans Holzer, [we read](#) the following account of someone learning of a death from an apparition:

"On November 15, 1971, at about 6:30 A.M., I was beginning to awaken when I clearly saw the face of my cousin beside and near the foot of my bed. He said, 'Don, I have died.' Then his face disappeared, but the voice was definitely his own distinctive voice.

As far as I knew at that time, he was alive and well. The thought of telling my wife made me feel uncomfortable, so I did not tell her of the incident. At 1 1:00 A.M. , about four- and- a-half hours after my psychic experience, the mail arrived. In it was a letter from my cousin's widow, informing us that he had a heart failure and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital. She stated that his death occurred at 9:30 P.M., November 8, 1971, at Ventura, California."

In the fascinating book *Noted Witnesses for Psychic Occurrences* by Walter Frankline Prince, we have on [page 204](#) an account by the Duchess d'Abrantes, the wife of General Junot, one of Napoleon's generals. She says she saw at length an apparition of her husband, who had "departed for Illyria." She says "one of his legs was broken." She says "the apparition slowly faded, and became like an almost invisible mist." General Junot had at about the same time (after reverses of fortune) jumped out a window, an apparent suicide attempt that resulted in a broken leg and his death several days later.

On [pages 262-263](#) of the same book, we are told about an apparition sighting by Celestine Galli-Marie, who first sang the role of Carmen, known to almost every opera lover. While on stage, she stopped singing, and felt a terrible pain. In the dressing room later, she said, "Some misfortune has happened to our Bizet," and "As the blow seemed to strike me, I saw his face in front of me, for just a second." She soon learned that the person she referred to (Georges Bizet, the composer of the opera *Carmen*) had died at about the same time.



Celestine Galli-Marie as Carmen (from [Wikimedia Commons](#))

In the book *Posthumous Humanity: A Study of Phantoms* we read [this](#) account:

"M. Bonnetty, responsible editor of the Annates de Philosophie Religieuse, tells us that one evening, before sleeping, he saw the image of one of his friends, then in America, open his bed curtains and inform him that he had that instant died. The sad news is subsequently confirmed, and indicates that very moment as having been the last. But this image wore a waistcoat whose very extraordinary pattern had much struck M. Bonnetty ; he made subsequent inquiries, and begged that they would send him a drawing of this waistcoat pattern. They did so, and it was identically that of the apparition."

On page 128 of the [March 1960 edition](#) of *The Spiritual Magazine*, we read of a Miss S. H. who on a Friday evening stated the following: "I have seen my poor dear Rosa; I little thought she would go away first when she came to see me before I left home; now she has gone from us all, and two bright angels are taking her to

that beautiful place that I can't get into." It was later found that the same Rosa had died that Friday afternoon.

In the Psi Encyclopedia, we read [this account](#) about a Soviet researcher who apparently received very many reports of partial apparitions coinciding with a time of death at a distant location:

"In an interview in Komsomolskaya Pravda a year before his death, Vasiliev revealed that he had received 'hundreds or more' accounts such as one in which a woman described a vivid hallucination of her son's face later found to coincide with the moment of his death. 'How', he asked, 'can we explain the fact that such weak currents as those of a man's brain can give rise to directed electromagnetic capable of being transmitted tens, hundreds, even thousands of kilometers?' "

In the book *New Evidences of Psychical Research* [we read](#) of a Mrs. Napier who was surprised to see an apparition of someone named Anthony Grace, who she had known long ago. She later found out that this person died in August 1906, the same month the apparition was seen.

On page 213 of Volume X of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research we read the following account:

"We went to a cottage in Gloucestershire, where my sister and I shared the same room...As my sister and I were working and talking together, I looked up, and saw our young acquaintance standing in front of me and looking at us. I turned to my sister, she saw nothing ; I looked again to where he stood, he had vanished. We agreed not to tell anyone — and, although I wished to put it down in my diary (which I had not kept for some time), I was afraid to do so ; I therefore made marks to remind myself. Some time afterwards we heard that our young acquaintance had either committed suicide or

had been killed ; he was found dead in the woods twenty-foar hours after landing. On looking back to my diary, I found that my marks corresponded to the time of his death."

On [page 50](#) of Volume II of *Phantasms of the Living* by Gurney, Myers and Podmore, we read the following account:

"On February 26, 1850, I was awake, for I was to go to my sister-in-law, at Kingstown, and visiting was then an event to me. About 2 o'clock in the morning my brother walked into our room (my sister's) and stood beside my bed...He looked down most lovingly and kindly, and waved his hand and he was gone. I recollect it all as if it were only last night it all occurred, and my feeling of astonishment, not at his coming into the room at all, but at where he could have gone. At that hour he died."

In the 1887 book *Posthumous Humanity: A Study of Phantoms*, we have a [report](#) of three different witnesses who reporting seeing at different times a Mr. X after he died. The first witness, a gardener, reported says that the day before Easter he "turned about and saw myself face to face with the deceased Mr. X," who was dressed as he typically was while living. The second witness, a grave digger, also recognized a figure as Mr. X, after Mr. X had died. This occurred the same day, the day before Easter. A third witness, a retired customs officer, also reported seeing an apparition of the deceased Mr. X on the day before Easter.

On [page 99](#) of the remarkable book *People from the Other World* by Henry Steel Olcott, we have the following narrative in which the author claims to have seen a life-like apparition that was also seen by nineteen other people:

"I know the full value of words, and I mean to say unequivocally that a woman — a breathing, walking, palpable woman, as palpable as any other woman in the room, recognized not only by her sons and daughters, but also by neighbors present, as Mrs. Zephaniah Eddy, deceased December 29th, 1872 — on the evening of October 2d, 1874, walked out of a cabinet where there was only one mortal, and where, under ascertained circumstances, only this one man could have been at the time, and spoke to me personally in audible voice. And nineteen other persons saw her at the same time, and heard her discourse."

On [page 158](#) of the book, we have an attestation to Henry Steel Olcott by a Franklin Boles, who says he and three others saw the ghost of his mother, and

that the ghost gradually dissolved away.
Here is the statement:

"Hartford, Conn., December 8th, 1874.

Dear Sir : In reply to your inquiry as to my seeing a spirit-form dissolve outside the door of William Eddy's cabinet, I take pleasure in communicating the following facts :

In June last, I visited Chittenden, in company with my wife, wife's sister, Mrs. Waite, of this city, and a friend from Waterbury. On one evening during our stay, my wife's mother, a former resident of Hartford, who deceased March, 1859, at the age of 78 years, appeared to us in white clothing, looking so natural that we recognized her instantly. She stood outside the cabinet curtain, leaned her body forward, and stretched out her arms to her daughter, as though she were longing to embrace her. Mrs. Prior asked the spirit if she could not speak to us, and she seemed to make a desperate effort to comply. But suddenly,. as if she had exhausted all her power of materialization in the attempt, her arms dropped, and her form melted down to the floor, and disappeared from our view. The figure did not dissolve into a -mist and disperse laterally, but sank down and disappeared, as if every particle comprising her frame had suddenly lost its cohesion with every other, and the whole fell into a heap together. Yours truly.

To Col. H. S. Olcott. Franklin Bolles."

Olcott then quotes a Dr. T. G. Horton of Utica, NY stating that she saw a certain Honto apparition dissolve, and Olcott states he saw the apparition "dissolve up to her waist." The book provides the following artist's illustration of a similar reported event (not a photograph).



LIGHT-HEART, DISSOLVING.

On [pages 248-251](#), Olcott states that he saw the apparition of a Mrs. Eddy shortly after visiting the grave of this Mrs. Eddy. Referring to this apparition of Mrs. Eddy, Olcott states "the lady was recognized by sundry of her former acquaintances in the room, who greeted her; in addition to her children, of whom, there were two present."

In the modern account [here](#), we read of a kind of apparition seen by multiple observers, a very unusual one in that it only appeared on a video monitor. A family suffered a disastrous auto accident in which three children were killed, including a small boy wearing a baseball hat. The mother was put in the ICU. A group of nurses saw (a total of about six different times) what looked like a small boy wearing a baseball hat, in the ICU room of the mother. But the child was only seen on a video monitor. Whenever someone checked the room to look for such a child, it was not found.

In a nineteenth century work, we read [the following account](#):

"Mr. Hubschmann, of Stuttgart, had a father in Bothland, and a brother in Strasburg. It happened, that one morning, at break of day, Mr. H 's children awoke him, by crying out, ' Grandfather ! grandfather! grandfather is come!' Mr. H looked about, but saw nothing. On interrogating his children, they solemnly declared that their grandfather had been there, but whither he had gone they knew not. After some days had elapsed, Mr. H received a letter from his brother at Strashurg, inquiring anxiously if he had any intelligence of their father, as a circumstance that had happened had occasioned him much alarm ; namely, that, on a certain day and hour, (and they were the same on which the children had made the above-mentioned exclamation,) he had been met by his father, as he entered his workshop in the morning. Eight days afterwards came the news of the old man's death ; he had expired at the precise moment when he appeared to his family, at Strasburg and Stuttgart."

This account is particularly evidential, as it has both of the most impressive features you might hope to find in an apparition account: (1) an apparition of someone is seen at the time someone died, by people who did not know the person had died; (2) the apparition is seen by multiple witnesses.

In [Volume X](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, page 213, we read the following account:

*"We went to a cottage in Gloucestershire, where my sister and I shared the same room. About the 14th of September, 1882, my sister and I felt worried and distressed by hearing the * Death Watch ' ; it lasted a whole day to night. We got up earlier than usual the next morning, about six o'clock, to finish some birthday presents for our mother. As my sister and I were working and talking together, I looked up, and saw our young acquaintance standing in front of me*

and looking at us. I turned to my sister, she saw nothing ; I looked again to where he stood, he had vanished. We agreed not to tell anyone — and, although I wished to put it down in my diary (which I had not kept for some time), I was afraid to do so ; I therefore made marks to remind myself. Some time afterwards we heard that our young acquaintance had either committed suicide or had been killed ; he was found dead in the woods twenty-four hours after landing. On looking back to my diary, I found that my marks corresponded to the date of his death."

On [page 440](#) of Volume 5 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following account by a person of something that happened seven days after his mother died:

"On the seventh day after death she was buried, and it was on that night she appeared to me....I seemed to have been sleeping some time when I woke, and turning over on the other side towards the window saw my mother standing by my bedside crying and wringing her hands. I had not been awake long enough to remember that she was dead and exclaimed quite naturally (for she often came in when I was asleep) 'Wliy, dear, what's the matter ?' and then suddenly remembering I screamed. The nurse sprang up from the next room, but on the top step flung herself on her knees, and began to tell her beads and cry. My father at the same moment arrived at the opposite door, and I heard his sudden exclamation of ' Julia, darling !' My mother turned towards him, and then to me, and wringing her hands again retreated towards the nursery and was lost. The nurse afterwards declared that she distinctly felt something pass her, but she was in such a state of abject terror that her testimony is quite worthless. My father then ordered her out of the room, and telling me that I had only been dreaming stayed until I fell asleep. The next day, however, he told me that he too had seen the vision, and that he hoped to do so again, and that if ever she came to see me again I

was not to be frightened, but to tell her that 'papa wanted to speak to her,' which I faithfully promised to do, but I need scarcely say that she never appeared again."



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Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Her Book on the Great Beyond Is Startling But Substantive

Author of a best-selling book on UFO's, investigative journalist Leslie Kean has written a recently published book entitled *Surviving Death: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for an Afterlife*. The book includes some startling eyewitness accounts by the author, and has ten chapters written by various researchers (mostly PhD's or doctors) who have accumulated evidence relevant to this topic.

The first part of the book deals with evidence for reincarnation. Such evidence was first systematically gathered by psychiatrist Ian Stevenson, who spent decades documenting cases of children who claimed to have had a previous life, often doing a birthmark corroboration that links birthmarks on the child with the cause of death of a previously living person. Stevenson was able to find many cases of children who reported past lives, with the details apparently matching the lives of previously living persons. His research has been continued by Jim Tucker, MD, who contributes a chapter to Kean's book. Kean describes an interview with a family with a son who claimed to have had a previous life as a minor show business figure. Kean presents a list of 55 similarities between the child's account and the life of a minor show business figure named Marty Martyn.

On page 229 Tucker says that 70% of the children who claim to remember past lives say they died in their previous lives by violence, accidents or suicide. Could it be that reincarnation occurs only to those who didn't live to old age? It should be noted that a particular "past life" case never proves a universal tendency for people to reincarnate. There are always still possibilities such as voluntary reincarnation and the possibility that knowledge is being transferred in some paranormal way that does not involve reincarnation.

The second part of the book deals mainly with near-death experiences. There is a chapter by a person involved in one of the most famous cases, the social worker who found on a hospital ledge a dark blue tennis shoe that a patient claimed to have seen while floating out of her body. One chapter discusses children who claimed to recall a life between earthly incarnations. We are told on page 128 that one in five

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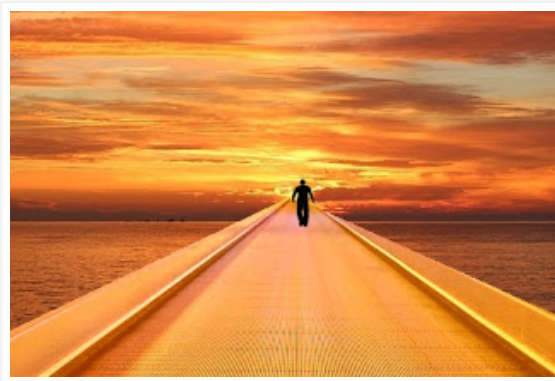
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children who claim to remember previous lives report remembering some otherworldly or heavenly existence where they existed between earthly incarnations.

There is a chapter by Peter Fenwick, an MD who is the author of the excellent book *The Art of Dying*. Fenwick discusses deathbed visions, in which people close to death often report seeing visions of dead relatives. Fenwick's chapter includes this strange narrative (page 141) of people seeing a mist-like thing leaving the body at death:

What is seen has been described to us variously as a "smoke," a "gray mist," a "white mist," a "very wispy white shape," seen leaving the body, usually from the chest or through the head. Some describe the air being wavy, like the heat haze of a mirage. It can also be an almost solid white form.



In Part 3 of the book, Leslie Kean discusses her experiences with mediums, psychics who claim to be able to contact the dead. She discusses what she calls an "almost perfect reading" with a medium, one in which the medium mentioned 19 things that seemed to be accurate. There is a chapter by Julie Beischel, PhD, who has long done scientific research involving mediums, getting "highly statistically significant results" suggesting some real paranormal effect (an example of one of her papers is [here](#)).

In Chapter 19 (page 231) Kean reports hearing the voice of her dead brother saying, "Leslie..I'm fine. It's okay." She reports other strange experiences such as electrical disturbances and bottle caps flying off bottles. She also reports seeing a weird dark apparition that slowly dissolved. She says on page 238, "This really, actually, and without question was something otherworldly, ghostly, inexplicable, an apparition that I had witnessed right there next to me."

In Part Four of the book there is a discussion by psychic researcher Erlendur Haraldsson, PhD of observations of a large variety of stunningly paranormal phenomena produced by the Icelandic medium Indridi Indridason while he was in a specially constructed observation center created to observe the strange effects he was producing, under controlled conditions apparently offering no possibility for cheating. As reported at length [here](#), Indridason was observed at length in such a center by some prestigious people such as a professor and someone who would later become a prime minister of Iceland. Such witnesses could find no evidence of trickery or fraud. In a similar vein, Kean

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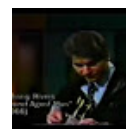
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discusses some utterly paranormal activity at a séance she attended. Not wishing to give too many “spoilers” about her book, I won't describe this jaw-dropping activity in detail.

Nearly 400 pages in length, and including many references at the end, Kean's fascinating book is one of the more substantive treatments of life after death to appear in recent years. The book includes very many relevant accounts I haven't mentioned. Although the parapsychological significance of some of her personal accounts are debatable, Kean deserves credit for sticking her neck out and reporting astonishing personal incidents that many people might never reveal out of fear of being ridiculed.

Postscript: In Chapter 3 of his book *The Scalpel and the Soul*, Allan J. Hamilton M.D. discusses a strange phenomenon he has observed. Hamilton says:

A dull, waxy, yellowish light accumulates around those who are about to die....This glow would seem to shine from underneath the patient's skin. Invariably, when I saw it, patients would die soon....I've seen patients precariously close to dying in the ICU, who have had this soft, candle-like light come into their being. Then it faded back to a crisper, cleaner white light as they recovered. But when the yellowish hue comes, the individual is near death.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [10:10 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [life after death](#), [mediums](#), [paranormal phenomena](#), [recommended books](#), [reincarnation](#)

Friday, December 26, 2014

They Seemed to Know of Deaths They Should Not Have Known Of

I always find it interesting to read about or experience a case when a mind seems to have some knowledge or idea that we would not expect it to have. There was such a case the other day in my personal experience. I saw my adult daughter leaving, and I thought to myself, "I'll say to her: see you later, alligator." But then I thought to myself: I don't think a young lady would like being called an alligator. So I simply said, "See you later" in a flat voice. She then immediately replied, "See you later, alligator," an expression I can never recall hearing her use before. Cases such as these may be evidence for human abilities such as ESP, which is also supported by laboratory experiments skeptics are unable to explain away.

A more interesting case of anomalous cognition comes when a person seems to know of someone's death when that person should have had no such knowledge. Bruce Greyson made a [study](#) of such cases, which he called "Peak in Darien" experiences. Below is a list of some interesting cases documented in Greyson's paper.

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- A woman had a dying vision of four of her brothers, only three of whom were known by her to be dead. The fourth brother was in India, and was thought to be alive. Not long after she died, a letter arrived announcing the death of the fourth brother.
- There were two brothers who died of scarlet fever. The death of the first brother was kept secret from the second brother. Just before the second brother died, he claimed to see a vision of the first brother, calling to him.
- John Alkin Ogle was on his deathbed and saw a vision of his dead brother and a man named George Hanley. Ogle had not yet learned that Hanley had died ten days earlier.
- Two schoolmates named Jennie and Edith died from diphtheria. The death of Jennie was kept secret from Edith. Just before dying, Edith had a vision of Jennie, saying, “Oh Jennie, I am so glad you are here.”
- A woman on her deathbed saw a vision of her deceased father, who was next to her sister Vida. The woman did not know that her sister Vida had died three weeks earlier.
- While dying a woman named Eleanor called out the names of deceased loved ones she could see, and mentioned a cousin named Ruth, asking, “What’s she doing here?” Ruth had unexpectedly died a short time earlier, and Eleanor had not been told.
- When Horace Wheatley went into a coma, he had a vision of a local government officer. Unknown to him, the government officer had recently died.
- A man had a near-death vision of two of his brothers, the second of whom had died two days earlier, unknown to the man. Only after his recovery did he learn about the death of the second brother.
- A 93-year-old woman dying of cancer had a vision of her sister calling him to join her. Unknown to the woman, the sister had died of cancer two days earlier.
- Two childhood friends named Ralph and Steve died at about the same time in different places. Just before he died, and just after Steve had died, Ralph had a vision of Steve.
- A dying man told his family that he had a vision of his dead grandmother, his dead mother, and his sister. He had not been told that his sister had recently died.
- A dying English woman reported hearing angelic voices, and then said she could see an old acquaintance of hers named Julia. The next day the newspaper announced Julia’s death.
- On her deathbed a Mrs. Hicks had a vision of her son Eddie. Shortly after her death, the family learned that Eddie had died about the same time the mother had the vision.

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The Navigation Argument Against the Idea That Your Brain Stores All Your Memories

Neurologists like to assume that all your memories are stored in your brain. But there are actually quite a few reasons for doubting this u...

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- A woman had a near-death experience in which she saw a friend named Tom. Shortly thereafter, her husband learned that Tom had died in an auto accident.
- A native American woman was hit by a car. Asked by someone whether there was anything he could do, the dying woman instructed the man to tell her mother that she was “very happy because I am already with my dad.” The man found the woman's mother, who told him that her husband (the father) had died of a heart attack one hour before the auto accident.
- After his mother died in an auto accident, a son dying from the same auto accident told a doctor, “Everything is all right now. Mommy and Peter are already waiting for me.” The son died, and the doctor then learned that his brother Peter had died a few minutes earlier in another location.
- A man having a near-death experience reported that he saw his sister, who told him it was too soon for him to die. Later he told doctors that his sister must be dead. They assured him that she was alive. He told them to check, and they found the sister had indeed died.
- A young dying patient named Peggy saw her aunt, who lived in another state, appear right next to her. It was later found that the aunt had died at the same time.
- Having a feverish close encounter with death, a young boy named Eddie Cuomo reported seeing dead relatives in heaven, and being told by his sister Teresa that he must go back. Very shortly thereafter, his parents checked on the status of Teresa, and found out she had died while attending college.
- A woman had a near-death experience in which she reported seeing a vision of her brother, a brother she had never known of. Her father then confessed that she did have a brother, whose existence she had never learned of.

Some skeptics attempt to explain away near-death experiences through some hypothesis about the mind constructing some vision to match its expectations. Such an explanation does not work for cases such as these, because in each such case we have some unexplained report or vision which proved to be consistent with the unknown death of a person, but which did not match the assumption that we would expect to have been in the mind of the person who made the report.

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"The Final Doorway"

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [12:41 PM](#)

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Saturday, November 8, 2014

New Experiment Fails to Explain the "Third Man Factor"

In 2009 we saw the appearance of John Geiger's interesting book *The Third Man Factor*. Geiger compiled quite a few cases of people in great danger who felt an extraordinary feeling that an unseen person was present, a person urging them to make the extraordinary effort needed to survive.

The most common type of person experiencing such a feeling seemed to be an adventurer or explorer in great danger of dying. One such person was James Seigny, who reported that when he was in deep trouble when exploring the Canadian Rockies, an unseen presence began mentally communicating all kinds of instructions, apparently through something like telepathy. When Stephanie Schwabe got into trouble during an underwater cave dive, and was panicking, she felt an unseen presence telling her to calm down. During a dire part of Ernest Shackleton's epic struggle for survival in the Antarctic (one of the most interesting adventure stories in history), Shackleton and two other men (Crean and Worsley) sensed (according to their later reports) that they had a feeling that there was an unseen person marching with them. In 1933 when British explorer Frank Smythe almost became the first man to climb the top of Mount Everest, he reported an extremely strong sense of a helpful unseen companion as he trudged through perilous terrain.

Geiger also reported that this "third man factor" can occur in cases not involving adventurers. One such case was Ron DiFrancesco, who tried to descend a stairwell in the doomed World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, only to find his path blocked by smoke, fire, and wreckage. DiFrancesco reported that an unseen presence suddenly addressed him by name and gave him encouragement to make the enormous effort to survive the crisis. He even reported that some unseen person "lifted me up" and guided him down the damaged stairs, to safety. Finally, improbably, he made his way to safety, becoming the last office worker to make it out of the South Tower before it collapsed.

Some scientists have created an experiment designed to explain away this "feeling of an unseen presence." But due to the poor design of the

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experiment, it fails to do any such thing.

The research was done by Olaf Blanke and his team in Switzerland. The first part of their research involved studying people with epilepsy and other motor-related problems, people who had reported feelings of an unseen presence. Blanke claims to have found common brain lesions in such people. But such research does nothing to explain the type of incidents described in *The Third Man Factor*, which mainly involve ordinary, healthy people without brain lesions, and largely involve people with superb motor-related skills – quite the opposite of people with motor-related problems.

The second part of the research done by Blanke was a weird experiment using robots. Seventeen subjects were blindfolded and linked up in some strange way with robots, in some “master slave” arrangement. In some cases the robots provided tactile feedback. Blanke reports that under such conditions quite a few of the subjects reported a “feeling of presence” rather like someone standing behind them – a hardly surprising result for a blindfolded person who is hooked up with a nearby robot as shown in the photo below.



The weird experiment (Credit: Alain Herzog/EPFL)

A press release reporting on this research (reproduced [here](#)) has tried to suggest that this research is some kind of explanation for the “third man factor” described by Geiger. Such a suggestion is unfounded. Blanke's research does nothing at all to explain the feeling of telepathic communication reported in the accounts collected by Geiger. Moreover, Blanke's research does not even explain the basic sense of an unseen presence reported in such accounts. Why? Simply because such accounts were given by people who were nowhere near robots, but Blanke's experiments only involve people who are hooked right up to robots.

What Blanke's experiments show is merely that when you blindfold people and hook them up to robots, they may have a feeling that somebody is nearby. That's a very trivial finding, which doesn't really explain anything.

I can only imagine the deliberations that might have gone on when they were thinking up Blanke's experiments. Perhaps it went something like this:

Scientist 1: Let's try to debunk that “third man factor” reported in Geiger's book. We'll trail a mile behind some mountain climbers climbing way up some peak of 20,000 feet. We'll carry along some big heavy MRI scanner, a generator, and some gas for the generator. Then if the mountain climbers get into trouble and report that “third man factor” thing--a mysterious sense of an unseen presence--we'll rush over to them, scan their brains with the MRI, and show that it's just due to some brain state.

Scientist 2: No, no. Too much work. Let's just stay warm and comfy, stay indoors, and play around with some robots.

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If Blanke's goal was actually trying to explain the “third man factor” reported in Geiger's book, then Blanke's experimental approach was both lazy and lacking in good sense. Also, Blanke's paper has a misleading title. It's called “Neurological and Robot-Controlled Induction of an Apparition.” An apparition is defined as seeing something; for example, the Merriam Webster online dictionary defines an apparition as “a ghostly figure,” while the first online Google definition is “a ghost or ghostlike image of a person.” A mere “sense that someone is there” by blindfolded people hooked up to a robot is not an apparition. Blanke hasn't actually produced an apparition by hooking people up to a robot, so the title of his paper is inaccurate.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:13 AM](#)

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Thursday, January 3, 2019

When World-Class Scientists Saw Ghosts (Part 3)

In [part 1](#) of this 3 part series, I defined a ghost as a human figure, full or partial, that mysteriously appears and mysteriously disappears. Let us now consider the case of the Nobel prize winner who saw a ghost (according to this definition of a ghost). Page 6-7 of Schrenck-Notzing's [book](#) *Phenomena of Materialization* (discussed below) contains a quote from a work by Professor Charles Richet, who won a Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology in 1913. Referring to an observation near the medium [Marthe Beraud](#) (referred to as Eva C. in Schrenck-Notzing's book), the quote by Richet is below:

"I see something like a white luminous ball of undetermined outline suspended above the floor. Then suddenly there appears, emerging from this white orb of light as from a trap-door, the phantom 'Bien Boa.' It is of moderate height. He is draped in a flowing garment with a belt around his waist. 'Bien Boa' is halting and lame in his walk. One cannot say whether he walks or glides...Without opening the curtain he suddenly collapses and vanishes on the floor. At the same time one hears the noise of a body falling on the floor. Three or four minutes afterwards the same white orb appears in the opening of the curtains above the floor, then a body is seen quickly rising straight up and attaining the height of an adult, and then it again collapses on the floor...Before my eyes outside the curtain, a living body has been formed, which emerged from the floor, and vanished into the floor."

As I have [personally photographed](#) an astonishing range of inexplicable phenomena relating to mysterious orbs, including 600+ cases of [speeding orbs](#) and 500+ cases of [mysterious striped orbs](#), with these striped orbs often appearing with [dramatically repeating patterns](#), I find this Nobel-prize winner's account of an astonishing orb manifestation to be not terribly surprising. As Richet reported a "phantom" mysteriously appearing and disappearing, the account can be called a ghost sighting.

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On page 466 of his [book](#) *Thirty Years of Psychical Research*, Richet makes a similar claim, stating the following:

"A living being, or living matter, formed under our eyes, which has its proper warmth, apparently a circulation of blood, and a physiological respiration (as I proved by causing the form of Bien Boa to breathe into a flask containing baryta water), which has also a kind of psychic personality having a will distinct from the will of the medium, in a word, a new human being! This is surely the climax of marvels! Nevertheless it is a fact."

On page 505 Richet states the following:

"It is therefore established that there was no instrumentation and no theatrical accessories that the medium could use, and that no stranger could enter the room. The materializations produced were very complete. The phantom of Bien Boa appeared five or six times under satisfactory conditions in the sense that he could not be Marthe masquerading in a helmet and sheet. Marthe would have had not only to bring, but also to conceal afterwards, the helmet, the sheet, and the burnous. Also Marthe and the phantom were both seen at the same time. To pretend that Bien Boa was a doll is more absurd still; he walked and moved, his eyes could be seen looking round, and when he tried to speak his lips moved."

Now, the claim of Nobel-prize-winner Richet to have seen a phantom produced by the medium Marthe Beraud might be dismissed as bunk were it not for the fact that the same medium underwent years of exhaustive testing under controlled conditions, and under such scientific scrutiny, countless similar paranormal phenomena were observed countless times. The main record of such experiments is the [book](#) "Phenomena of Materialization" by Albert von Schrenck-Notzing, a physician who made lengthy scientific studies of the medium Marthe Beraud (referred to in the book as Eva C.). Filled with relevant photos, the book can be read online using [this](#) link (as it's a very long book that may be hard to read online, I suggest downloading it as a .pdf file and then opening the file with a .pdf file reader such as Adobe Acrobat or a web browser).

Schrenck-Notzing spent four years investigating Beraud under controlled conditions, and produced an extremely detailed book describing a vast assortment of inexplicable phenomena he observed in her presence. The book includes more than 50 clear photos of the paranormal. Schrenck-Notzing makes frequent reports of things such as "spirit hands" appearing and disappearing, "materialized heads" appearing out of parts of Beraud's body, and equally astonishing things. Schrenck-Notzing took careful precautions to prevent fraud, such as placing the medium in a small "cabinet" (actually just a small

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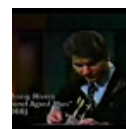
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corner of a room with a curtain in front of it) that was always carefully checked, and even often arranging for a full body examination before the phenomena were produced. Under conditions that should have prevented all possibility of fraud, the most inexplicable phenomena were produced on many different days.

You should be impressed by the book's photos when you understand the conditions under which they were produced. The medium Marthe Baraud was placed in a small corner of a room, with a small curtain in front of her. Both the area behind the curtain and the medium herself were always checked to exclude the possibility of magical apparatus being sneaked in. Observers sat a few feet from her. The photos often show "materializations" the size of heads or half a human body, and in the text Schrenck-Notzing says such things were often seen to slowly appear or disappear. The photos typically show the curtain opened, with the medium's hands clutching the curtain (or observers) while the mysterious "materializations" are above her hands. The photos show many such "materializations" behind the medium or above the medium's head. Given such observations, skeptic explanations (such as something hidden in the medium's vagina) don't work, as the photographed "materialization" is often way too big to be something that could be hidden in a vagina. There is always the possibility of a gigantic fraud conspiracy involving multiple persons, but such a thing would have had to have been one of the most elaborate frauds in history, given the huge book with so many details and seemingly paranormal photos (all produced long before Photoshop existed). Schrenck-Notzing stated that in four years of such experiments he never saw any sign of trickery from the medium Marthe Baraud.

On page 270 of the book Schrenck-Notzing summarizes why his observations cannot be explained as a fraud by the medium, referring to body checks of the medium, and to a body tight she was put in to hinder any chance of extracting something from her body:

"The counter proof to these considerations is given by the mode of production of the photographs (simultaneous exposures on five to seven cameras, within and without the cabinet), by the rigorous initial and final examinations, by the dress of the medium, by the sittings with the nude medium, by the occurrence of curious forms and fragments which cannot easily be produced by commercially obtainable figures, by the numerous plastic products, by the artistic character of certain portraits, which cannot be imitated in this way, by the repeated photography of features of deceased persons recognised by their families, by the growth and recession of the teleplastic phenomena, by their movements, proved evidentially through the sense organs {e.g., materialised hands

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which make touches or grasp objects, etc.), by the lightning-like appearance and disappearance of the phenomena, while the medium's body is visible and motionless, and, finally, by a class of phenomena which cannot at all be imitated artificially, as, for instance, the creation of an amorphous, living and moving substance, leaving a residue of decomposition products of organised matter, and the penetration of the substance produced through textile fabrics and veils {see Figs. 152 and 153}. To this we must add the progressive development, advancing from simple to complex performances, the elementary character of the forms and phenomena, and the consideration that a fraud, which would require at least a laboratory for producing the most varied assortment of pictures and utensils, and would presuppose the use of considerable sums of money for procuring them, could hardly have been practised for four years, in spite of the constantly varying and continuously intensified precautions and photographic methods, and could not have been carried out without the slightest failure, in the face of the acumen of numerous learned observers."

On page 275 Schrenck-Notzing states the following:

"Not one of the observers, during these four years, has ever found on the medium's body, or in the seance costume, anything which could have been used for the fraudulent production of the phenomena. The importance of this negative result can hardly be emphasised too strongly. The author was a witness to the thorough performance of this task on no less than 180 occasions. The honesty of the medium is therefore not a 'probability, but a certainty placed beyond all question. She has never introduced any objects into the cabinet with which she could have fraudulently represented the teleplastic products. The various seance rooms, in different houses, had no secret passages or trap-doors, and were regularly examined, both before and after every sitting, by the savants who took part in the sittings...In some sittings the curtains were not closed at all, and the phenomena were often observed from beginning to end, while the medium's body was motionless and visible."

Corroborating testimony is given both in Richet's book quoted above, and in the book "From the Unconscious to the Conscious" by physician Gustave Geley, which can be read online [here](#) (it's another case of a large book that is best downloaded as a PDF file and then opened from the .pdf file using Adobe Acrobat or a web browser). On page 53-57 Geley states the following, referring to Marthe Beraud by the same "Eva" pseudonym used by Schrenck-Notzing:

"I had the honour and privilege of studying Eva with her for a year and a half, at bi-weekly seances, held at first in her house,

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Featured Post

The Navigation Argument Against the Idea That Your Brain Stores All Your Memories

Neurologists like to assume that all your memories are stored in your brain. But there are actually quite a few reasons for doubting this u...

Cue Storage Area		Visual Storage Area
White Bread	3452333	
White Castle	6493345	
White House	8403433	
White Picket Fence	9345335	
		8403433

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and afterwards, for three consecutive months, exclusively in my own laboratory....I have been able to see, to touch, and to photograph the materialisations of which I am about to write. I have frequently followed the event from its beginning to its end; for it was formed, developed, and disappeared under my own eyes. However unexpected, strange or impossible such a manifestation may appear, I have no right to put forward the slightest doubt as to its reality....In the more complete cases the materialised organ has all the appearance and biologic functions of a living organ. I have seen admirably modelled fingers, with their nails; I have seen complete hands with bones and joints; I have seen a living head, whose bones I could feel under a thick mass of hair. I have seen wellformed living and human faces! On many occasions these representations have been formed from beginning to end under my own eyes. I have, for instance, seen the substance issue from the hands of the medium and link them together ; then, the medium separating her hands, the substance has lengthened, forming thick cords, has spread, and formed fringes like epiploic fringes. Lastly, in the midst of these fringes, there has appeared by progressive representation, perfectly organised fingers, a hand, or a face. In other cases I have witnessed an analogous organisation in substance issuing from the mouth."

An example of such an "an analogous organisation in substance issuing from the mouth" is shown in the photo below taken by Geley, and reproduced on page 336 of Schrenck-Notzing's book. The caption states, "This head (enlarged) was seen to form from a mass emerging from Eva's mouth." Schrenck-Notzing's book contains quite a few photos of what looks like strange radiant blobs emerging from the mouth of both Marthe Beraud and another medium named Stanislava.

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To summarize, we have three different biomedical professionals (Schrenck-Notzing, Geley and Richet) who stated in print that they were convinced that paranormal phenomena were being produced near Marthe Beraud, after each did separate investigations of her.

See [here](#) for an in-depth modern article on Marthe Beraud. An excellent scholarly [paper](#) on the work of Schrenck-Notzing and its unfair treatment by an opponent is the paper “Policing Epistemic Deviance: Albert von Schrenck-Notzing and Albert Moll” by Andreas Sommer. Sommer details the defamatory treatment that Schrenck-Notzing received from a skeptic named Albert Moll, who pulled many a dirty trick in his efforts to discredit Schrenck-Notzing, acting with all the fairness of a prosecutor at the Salem witch trials. Some comments of Sommers at the end of his paper are well worth reading:

"Paul Feyerabend, the great enfant terrible of the philosophy of science, once cautioned that western science, which is said to have started as a movement of liberation to overcome ideological suppression by religion, was turning into an institution with problematic power structures not unlike that of the medieval Church itself: 'The very same enterprise that once gave man the ideas and the strength to free himself from the fears and prejudices of a tyrannical religion now turns him into a slave of its interest.' In support of Feyerabend's concern

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there is strong evidence that the pathologisation of 'paranormal belief', and the defamation of parapsychological researchers and other scientific heretics as intrinsically incompetent, fraudulent or otherwise intellectually or morally deficient, is a dominant academic tradition that still goes strong.....Nowadays, the heirs of Moll have institutionalised themselves into popular 'sceptics' organisations, several of whose activists make a comfortable living as self-appointed watchdogs of science..... Analysing popular 'sceptics' organisations, several of whose activists have been shown to engage regularly in intellectual dishonesty in the name of 'science', 'reason' and 'civilisation', sociological studies raise concerns regarding the embracing and support of self-styled popular guardians of science by major scientists and philosophers.....Stirred by the above observations, the aim of the present historical case study has been to show the historical and current relevance of certain forms of scientific dogmatism as a problem that deserves focused academic attention. For to tolerate its (very real) effects is not only to risk the destruction of careers of potential scientific innovators, it also threatens to undermine basic ideals and requirements for science to maintain and fulfill its role as an intrinsically progressive rather than ideologically regressive project: self-criticism, epistemic pluralism, and intellectual freedom."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:57 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [mediums](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Sunday, December 30, 2018

When World-Class Scientists Saw Ghosts (Part 2)

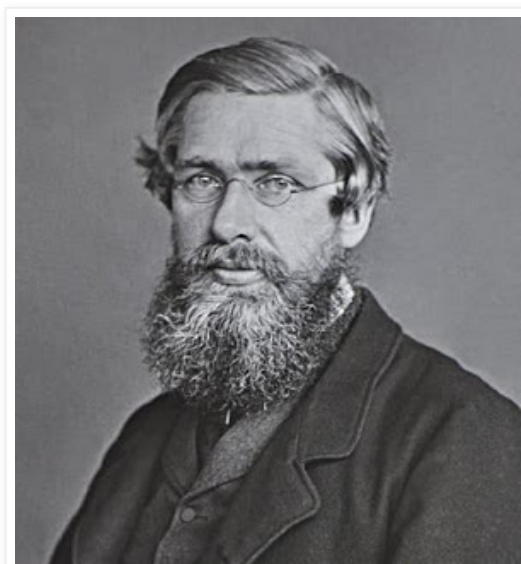
It is generally stated that the theory of evolution by natural selection was co-founded by two people: Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. But an NPR [article](#) tells us, "Wallace actually came up with the idea twenty years earlier, says David Quammen, author of the book *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* ." Wallace's [paper](#) "On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type" was written in February 1858. Wallace sent it to Darwin in early 1858, and in the summer of 1858 it was read at a scientific meeting. Darwin didn't publish his influential book "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life" until November, 1859. Below are some excerpts from Wallace's paper showing he published Darwin's main ideas before Darwin's "Origin of Species":

The life of wild animals is a struggle for existence....It seems evident that what takes place among the individuals of a species must also occur among the several allied species of a group,- viz., that those which are best adapted to obtain a regular supply of food, and to defend themselves against the attacks of their enemies and the vicissitudes of the seasons,

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must necessarily obtain and preserve a superiority in population; while those species which from some defect of power or organization are the least capable of counteracting the vicissitudes of food, supply, &c., must diminish in numbers, and, in extreme cases, become altogether extinct....But this new, improved, and populous race might itself, in course of time, give rise to new varieties, exhibiting several diverging modifications of form, any of which, tending to increase the facilities for preserving existence, must by the same general law, in their turn become predominant....Even the peculiar colours of many animals, especially insects, so closely resembling the soil or the leaves or the trunks on which they habitually reside, are explained on the same principle; for though in the course of ages varieties of many tints may have occurred, yet those races having colours best adapted to concealment from their enemies would inevitably survive the longest....We believe we have now shown that there is a tendency in nature to the continued progression of certain classes of varieties further and further from the original type.

Nowadays proponents of evolution by natural selection tend to dismiss the possibility of ghosts. But ironically the co-originator of that theory (Wallace) reported some spectacular reports of ghosts. Before looking at Wallace's first hand accounts, let's look at some of his writings about other people's ghost sightings. In this post I will use a definition of a ghost the same definition I stated in [part I](#) of this three-part series. There I defined a ghost as “a human form, full or partial, that appears and disappears mysteriously.”



Alfred Russel Wallace

In his book “Of Miracles and Modern Spiritualism,” which can be read [here](#) or [here](#), Wallace had a chapter entitled, “The Evidence of the Reality of Apparitions.” On page 69 he began the chapter by stating, “I now propose to give a few instances in which the evidence of the appearance of preter-human or spiritual beings is as good and definite as it is possible for any

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- [interstellar travel](#) (8)
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evidence of any fact to be.” Wallace discusses on page 70-71 a ghost story he read about and found compelling. A man saw a strange figure, and pointed it out to another man who identified the figure as his brother who lived far away. The figure disappeared. Word later came that the brother had died at the same hour and day as the strange figure was seen.

On page 73-74 Wallace describes another ghost sighting he read about, saying, “Here we have the same apparition appearing to two ladies unknown to and remote from each other on the same night; the communication obtained through a third person, declaring the time and mode of death ; and all coinciding exactly with the events happening many thousand miles away.” He describes on page 76 another dramatic ghost story he did not personally witness:

However much any one of these incidents might have been scouted as a delusion, what are we to say to the combination of them ? A whole household hear distinct and definite noises of persons walking and speaking. Two ladies see the same appearances, at different times, and under circumstances the least favourable for delusion. The name is given to one by voice, to the other by writing; the date of death is communicated. An independent enquirer by much research, finds out that all these facts are true ; that the christian name of the only " Children " who occupied and died in the house was Richard, and that his death took place in the year given by the apparition, 1753. Mr. Owen's own full account of this case, and the observations on it should be read, but this imperfect abstract will serve to show that none of the ordinary modes of escaping from the difficulties of a " ghost story " are here applicable.

Wallace's conviction about the reality of ghosts came before there was even published the most compelling work on the topic, the massive and thoroughly researched work "Phantasms of the Living" by Gurney, Myers and Podmore, which can be read [here](#). Wallace's eyewitness reports of ghost sightings appeared in Chapter 37 of Volume 2 of his biography “My Life.” You can read his original accounts by using [this](#) link, or [this](#) link (to get the text version), and going to page 327.

On page 327 to 328 Wallace describes the following event he saw very much resembling the phantom appearances described in my previous [post](#). From the wording, it is hard to tell whether the “Miss C.” referred to is Florence Cook or her sister Kate. Wallace states the following:

I attended a series of sittings with Miss Kate Cook, the sister of the Miss Florence Cook, with whom Sir William Crookes obtained such very striking results. The general features of these séances were very similar, though there was great variety in details. They took place in the rooms of Signor

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Randi, a miniature painter, living in Montague Place, W., in a large reception-room, across one corner of which a curtain was hung and a chair placed inside for the medium. There were generally six or seven persons present. Miss Cook and her mother came from North London. Miss C. was always dressed in black, with lace collar, she wore laced-up boots, and had earrings in her ears. In a few minutes after she had entered the cabinet, the curtains would be drawn apart and a white-robed female figure would appear, and sometimes come out and stand close in front of the curtain. One after another she would beckon to us to come up. We then talked together, the form in whispers; I could look closely into her face, examine the features and hair, touch her hands, and might even touch and examine her ears closely, which were not bored for earrings. The figure had bare feet, was somewhat taller than Miss Cook, and, though there was a general resemblance, was quite distinct in features, figure, and hair. After half an hour or more this figure would retire, close the curtains, and sometimes within a few seconds would say, "Come and look." We then opened the curtains, turned up the lamp, and Miss Cook was found in a trance in the chair, her black dress, laced-boots, etc., in the most perfect order as when she arrived, while the full-grown white-robed figure had totally disappeared.

On page 328 to 329 Wallace tells us two similar tales of mysterious materializations of human figures during seances. Then on page 330 he gives an astonishing eyewitness account of a ghostly phantom appearing out of the body of a medium. Wallace states the following:

It was a bright summer afternoon, and everything happened in the full light of day. After a little conversation, Monk, who was dressed in the usual clerical black, appeared to go into a trance; then stood up a few feet in front of us, and after a little while pointed to his side, saying, "Look." We saw there a faint white patch on his coat on the left side. This grew brighter, then seemed to flicker, and extend both upwards and downwards, till very gradually it formed a cloudy pillar extending from his shoulder to his feet and close to his body. Then he shifted himself a little sideways, the cloudy figure standing still, but appearing joined to him by a cloudy band at the height at which it had first begun to form. Then, after a few minutes more, Monk again said "Look," and passed his hand through the connecting band, severing it. He and the figure then moved away from each other till they were about five or six feet apart. The figure had now assumed the appearance of a thickly draped female form, with arms and hands just visible. Monk looked towards it and again said to us "Look," and then clapped his hands. On which the figure put out her hands, clapped them as he had done, and we all distinctly heard her clap following his, but fainter. The figure then moved slowly back to him, grew fainter and shorter, and was

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apparently absorbed into his body as it had grown out of it.

We will see in my next post that this type of astonishing thing has been reported very many times by observers such as Schrenck-Notzing, who thoroughly documented all of his observations and published many photographs of them.

On pages 338 to 339 Wallace gives the following astonishing eyewitness account, in which he describes eight phantom figures appearing mysteriously and disappearing as mysteriously:

I attended several séances at the house of Mrs. Ross, a very good medium for materializations, in the company of one or more of my friends. I will state what occurred on one of these occasions. The séance took place in a front downstairs room of a small private house, opening by sliding doors into a back room, and by an ordinary door into the passage. The cabinet was formed by cloth curtains across the corner of the room from the fireplace to the sliding door. One side of this was an outer wall, the other the wall of the back room, where there was a cupboard containing a quantity of china. I was invited to examine, and did so thoroughly— front room, floor, back room, rooms below in basement, occupied by a heating apparatus ; and I am positive there were no means of communication other than the doors for even the smallest child. Then the sliding doors were closed, fastened with sticking-plaster, and privately marked with pencil. The ten visitors formed a circle opposite the cabinet, and I sat with my back close to the passage door and opposite the curtain at a distance of about ten feet. A red-shaded lamp was in the furthest corner behind the visitors, which enabled me to see the time by my watch and the outlines of every one in the room; and ,as it was behind me the space between myself and the cabinet was very fairly lighted. Under these circumstances the appearances were as follows:—

(1) A female figure in white came out between the curtains with Mrs. Ross in black, and also a male figure, all to some distance in front of the cabinet. This was apparently to demonstrate, once for all, that, whatever they were, the figures were not Mrs. Ross in disguise.

(2) After these had retired three female figures appeared together, in white robes and of different heights. These came two or three feet in front of the curtain.

(3) A male figure came out, recognized by a gentleman present as his son.

(4) A tall Indian figure came out in white mocassins; he danced and spoke; he also shook hands with me and others, a large, strong, rough hand.

(5) A female figure with a baby stood close to the entrance of the cabinet. I went up (on invitation), felt the baby's face, nose, and hair, and kissed it—apparently a real, soft-skinned, living baby. Other ladies and gentlemen agreed.

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- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
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- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
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- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
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- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retrocognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
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- [rogue planet](#) (1)
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- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
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- [science fiction](#) (104)
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- [science fiction story](#) (118)
- [science journalism](#) (5)
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Directly the séance was over the gas was lighted, and I again examined the bare walls of the cabinet, the curtains, and the door, all being just as before, and affording no room or place for disposing of the baby alone, far less of the other figures.

In the description above one of the mysterious figures is described as recognized by one observer as his son, apparently his deceased son. Wallace notes that the doors ("fastened with sticking plaster" that would be disturbed if someone opened them) were "just as before," indicating no one had gone through the doors.

On page 339 to 340 Wallace tells us the following, which occurred under conditions identical to those described in the previous account. He again refers to phantom figures appearing from a closed off "cabinet" offering no possibility of external entrance. He mentions that he recognized one of these figures as his dead cousin Algernon. Here is Wallace's eyewitness account:

At another special séance for friends of Dr. Nichols and Mr. Brackett, with Professor James and myself—nine in all, under the same conditions as before, eight or nine different figures came, including a tall Indian chief in war-paint and feathers, a little girl who talked and played with Miss Brackett, and a very pretty and perfectly developed girl, "Bertha," Mr. Brackett's niece, who has appeared to him with various mediums for two years, and is as well known to him as any near relative in earth-life. She speaks distinctly, which these figures rarely do, and Mr. Brackett has often seen her develop gradually from a cloudy mass, and almost instantly vanish away. But what specially interested me was, that two of the figures beckoned to me to come up to the cabinet. One was a beautifully draped female figure, who took my hand, looked at me smilingly, and on my appearing doubtful, said in a whisper that she had often met me at Miss Kate Cook's seances in London. She then let me feel her ears, as I had done before to prove she was not the medium. I then saw that she closely resembled the figure with whom I had often talked and joked at Signor Randi's, a fact known to no one in America. The other figure was an old gentleman with white hair and beard, and in evening-dress. He took my hand, bowed, and looked pleased, as one meeting an old friend. Considering who was likely to come, I thought of my father and of Darwin, but there was not enough likeness to either. Then at length I recognized the likeness to a photograph I had of my cousin Algernon Wilson, whom I had not seen since we were children, but had long corresponded with, as he was an enthusiastic entomologist, living in Adelaide, where he had died not long before. Then I looked pleased and said, "Is it Algernon?" at which he nodded earnestly, seemed very much pleased, shook my hand vigorously, and patted my face and head with his other hand. These two recognitions were to me very striking, because they were both so private and personal to myself, and could not possibly have been known to the medium or even to any of my friends present.

- scientific literature (2)
- scientific process (7)
- scientific speculation (9)
- scientific theories (5)
- scientific theory (5)
- scientist misconduct (1)
- scientist subculture (1)
- self (1)
- self-consciousness (2)
- sensationalism (1)
- SETI (16)
- sex (1)
- sexism (1)
- shopping (1)
- short radio bursts (1)
- simulated universe (6)
- Singularity (8)
- skepticism (9)
- slavery (1)
- social media (1)
- social security (1)
- social trends (1)
- sociology of science (13)
- software development (5)
- solar flares (1)
- solar system (1)
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- space colonization (2)
- space station (2)
- sports of the future (1)
- STARGATE program (1)
- starships (1)
- stem cells (1)
- string theory (6)
- subsidies (1)
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- supercomputer (3)
- superintelligence (7)
- supermen (2)
- supernovae (2)
- supersymmetry (9)
- surveillance state (1)
- synapse theory of memory (7)
- taxes (1)
- technological innovations (1)
- teleology (4)
- teleportation (1)
- theism (3)
- theories of mind (7)
- theories of the future (3)
- theories of the universe (4)
- theories of time (3)
- theories of truth (1)
- theory of accelerating progress (1)
- theory of consciousness (8)

Partially because of his own abundant experiences with the paranormal, Wallace made clear that he did not believe that the theory of natural selection could explain the human mind. In his [essay](#) “The Limits of Natural Selection as Applied to Man,” Wallace argued that humans have a variety of mental characteristics that do not increase survival value, and cannot be explained as being the product of natural selection. He stated in that essay, “Natural Selection could only have endowed savage man with a brain a little superior to that of an ape, whereas he actually possesses one very little inferior to that of a philosopher.” He also stated in that essay, “A superior intelligence has guided the development of man in a definite direction, and for a special purpose, just as man guides the development of many animal and vegetable forms.”

Clearly Alfred Russel Wallace was quite a ghost observer and ghost believer. It is amusing to consider a possible conversation between a mainstream biologist and a historian.

Biologist: Please believe in Darwin's wonderful insight that natural selection and random mutations are the cause of all biological wonders.

Historian: You forgot to mention that this theory was co-founded by Alfred Russel Wallace, and some think he first came up with it.

Biologist: I don't care who thought of it first – just believe it.

Historian: It is interesting that the co-founder of the idea of evolution by natural selection believed in ghosts and reported some astonishing apparition sightings he personally saw.

Biologist: Well, don't believe him about that!

Historian: And also Wallace said natural selection could not explain the human mind, that it must have resulted from the guidance of some superior intelligence.

Biologist: Don't believe him about that either. Much better to believe that natural selection explains it all.

Historian: So what are you saying – that I should believe very strongly what Alfred Russel Wallace taught about animals, but I should not believe what he taught about humans and ghosts?

Biologist: Exactly.

In the third and last in this three-part series, which you can read [here](#), I discuss how a Nobel prize winner in Medicine and Physiology reported seeing the appearance of a mysterious phantom, and how abundant further observations by others tended to corroborate his report.

Postscript: On page 286 of Alfred Russel Wallace's [My Life](#), we read the following account:

On one occasion Home was the medium and Mr. (now Sir William) Crookes was present. As I was the only one of the company who had not witnessed any of the remarkable

- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
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- [time travel](#) (3)
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- [wormhole](#) (1)

phenomena that occurred in his presence, I was invited to go under the table while an accordion was playing, held in Home's hand, his other hand being on the table. The room was well lighted, and I distinctly saw Home's hand holding the instrument, which moved up and down and played a tune without any visible cause. On stating this, he said, "Now I will take away my hand"—which he did; but the instrument went on playing, and I saw a detached hand holding it while Home's two hands were seen above the table by all present. This was one of the ordinary phenomena, and thousands of persons have witnessed it; and when we consider that Home's séances almost always took place in private houses at which he was a guest, and with people absolutely above suspicion of collusion with an impostor, and also either in the daytime or in a fully illuminated room, it will be admitted that no form of legerdemain will explain what occurred.

This account matches a similar account by Sir William Crookes (discoverer of the element thallium), who states on page 13 of his [Researches in the Phenomena of Spiritualism](#) the following:

But the sequel was still more striking, for Mr. Home then removed his hand altogether from the accordion, taking it quite out of the cage, and placed it on the hand of the person next to him. The instrument then continued to play, no person touching it and no hand being near it.

The accordion in question was one Crookes had bought himself, and this was when the world had no such invention as a self-playing accordion. In the same book, Crookes on page 92 lists self-luminous hands as Class IX among 13 paranormal phenomena he has observed, listing something similar to the "detached hand" described by Wallace. For more about Crookes' observations of the paranormal, read [here](#).

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [11:26 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

When World-Class Scientists Saw Ghosts (Part 1)

If you bring up the topic of paranormal activity as dramatic as levitation or ghosts to the average scientist, you might well get some claim along the lines of: *while individual witnesses may have claimed to have seen such a thing, nothing like that has ever been observed by a scientist under controlled conditions*. Such a statement is actually not at all true. Paranormal activity as dramatic as levitation and spectral appearances have been observed by some famous scientists under controlled conditions.

The most reliable way for us to get evidence of such things is to read an account written very close to the time of the alleged occurrences, preferably by the person who observed them. We have such an account in writings of Sir William Crookes, an eminent scientist of the nineteenth century. Crookes did fundamental investigations into cathode rays that helped to pave the way for the later invention of television. He also discovered the element thallium. If the Nobel Prize for physics had existed in his time, Crookes would probably have won it.

Crookes' first hand account of his observations of the paranormal is found in his 1874 book *Researches in the Phenomena of Modern Spiritualism*, which is available online at [this](#) link or at [this](#) link. Below are some relevant passages.

Crookes personally tested the psychic medium Daniel Dunglas Home, after a great number of people over quite a few years had reported paranormal marvels when Home had visited their homes. On [page 6](#) Crookes writes the following:

"Among the remarkable phenomena which occur under Mr. Home's influence, the most striking, as well as the most easily tested with scientific accuracy, are –(1) the alteration in the weight of bodies, and (2) the playing of tunes upon musical instruments (generally an accordion, for purposes of portability) without direct human intervention, under conditions rendering contact or connection with the keys impossible. Not until I had witnessed these facts some half-dozen times, and scrutinised them with all the critical acumen that I possess, did I become convinced of their objective reality."

On pages 6-10 Crookes describes an experiment done at Crookes' home, using an accordion Crookes bought himself. There were four other witnesses, including William Huggins and Edward William Cox, both fellows of the Royal Society, the leading scientific organization in England. The accordion was placed in a cage, and Home merely touched one end of it, the end on the opposite side of the keyboard. The accordion was heard to play by itself. On [page 9](#) we are told this:

"But the sequel was still more striking, for Mr. Home then removed his hand altogether from the accordion, taking it quite out of the cage, and placed it on the hand of the person next to him. The instrument then continued to play, no person touching it and no hand being near it."

Crookes notes on [page 10](#) observing an apparent levitation:

"I and two of the others present saw the accordion distinctly floating about in the cage with no visible means of support. This was repeated a second time, after a short interval."

Page 13, 14 and 15 of the book contains letters from two of the other witnesses of this paranormal activity. The letter from William Huggins to Crookes states that Crookes' account (as quoted above) was "a

correct statement of what took place in my presence in your house.”

The letter from Edward William Cox to Crookes, referring to Crookes account quoted above, states, “Having been present, for the purpose of scrutiny, at the trial of the experiments reported in this paper, I readily bear my testimony to the perfect accuracy of your description of them, and to the care and caution with which the various crucial tests were applied.”

On [page 15](#) Crookes gives some more details on his claim that Home could produce a paranormal alteration in the weight of bodies.

Crookes states the following:

"I tested with a weighing machine the phenomenon on two subsequent occasions when I had an opportunity of meeting Mr. Home at the home of a friend. On the first occasion, the increase of weight was from 8 lbs normally, to 36 lbs, 48 lbs, and 46 lbs, in three successive experiments tried under strict scrutiny. On the second occasion, tried about a fortnight after, in the presence of other observers, I found an increase of weight to be from 8 lbs to 23 lbs, 43 lbs, and 27 lbs, in three successive trials, varying the conditions."

Clearly Crookes claim of a paranormal alteration in the weight of an object was not some kind of fuzzy impression but instead a carefully measured result involving a dramatic variation of up to 600%.

After taking quite a few pages to very carefully describe some of his scientific equipment, pages which include exact diagrams and graphs, Crookes states this on [page 23](#):

"These experiments confirm beyond doubt the conclusions at which I arrived in my previous paper, namely, the existence of a force associated, in some manner not yet explained, with the human organisation, by which force, increased weight is capable of being imparted to solid bodies without physical contact."

On page 34 Crookes begins listing some classes of paranormal phenomena that he has personally observed. Class II is paranormal sounds. Crookes mentions that he repeatedly observed a rich variety of paranormal-seeming sounds occurring around medium Kate Fox, often very loud. Class IV involves the paranormal movement of heavy objects. Crookes states [on page 37](#), “On three successive evenings a small table moved slowly across the room, under conditions which I had specially pre-arranged, so as to answer any objection that might be raised as to the evidence.” Class V is the levitation of tables and chairs off of the ground, without contact with any person. Crookes states [on page 40](#), “On five separate occasions, a heavy dining table rose between a few inches and 1 ½ feet off of the ground, under special circumstances, which rendered trickery impossible.” He also states [on page 41](#), “At another time two children, on separate occasions, rose from the floor with their chairs, in full daylight, under (to me) most satisfactory conditions; for I was kneeling, and keeping close watch upon the feet of the chair, and observing that no one might touch them.”

Class VI is the levitation of human beings. Crookes states the following [on page 38](#):

"The most striking cases of levitation which I have witnessed have been with Mr. Home. On three separate occasions have I seen him raised completely from the floor of the room. Once sitting in an easy chair; once kneeling on his chair; and once standing up....There are at least a hundred recorded instances of Mr. Home rising from the ground, in the presence of as many separate persons."

Crookes noted three other prestigious witnesses to Home's levitations (the Earl of Dunraven, Lord Lindsay, and Captain C. Wynne). Class VIII was luminous appearances. Crookes records various paranormal lights that he saw floating about. Class IX is luminous hands floating about. Crookes records seeing numerous such cases. Class X is direct writing, which Crookes defines as writing not produced by anyone present. He states [on page 43](#), "A luminous hand came down from the upper part of the room, and after hovering near me for a few seconds, took a pencil from my hand, rapidly wrote on a sheet of paper, threw the pencil down, and then rose up over our heads, fading into darkness."

Does this qualify as a ghost sighting? While ghost sightings often involve reports of full human forms, in many ghost sightings it is reported that only part of a human was seen, perhaps only half a body or an arm or hand. We can define a ghost as a human form, full or partial, that appears and disappears mysteriously. Under that definition, the account just quoted qualifies as a ghost sighting (and I will soon cite much more dramatic cases).

Class XI is phantom forms and faces. Recounting what must be called a ghost sighting, Crookes states this [on page 44](#):

"A dark, shadowy, semi-transparent form, like that of a man, was then seen by all present standing near the window, waving the curtain with his hand. As we looked, the form faded away and the curtain ceased to move."

The climax of the book is the sensational case of Florence Cook, who was a teenage girl Crookes tested extensively at his own home in 1874, after numerous observers had reported in 1873 astounding inexplicable phenomena connected with her. Cook repeatedly seemed to produce what is called a full-form materialization. In a typical occurrence, Cook would go into what is called a "cabinet," but which was typically just a small area of a room closed off by a curtain. There would then mysteriously emerge a seemingly different figure who identified herself as Katie King. Katie King kept showing up numerous times in the sessions at Crookes' home, until May 21, 1874 (previously announced by her as the last day she would appear).

Could this figure have simply been Florence in disguise? Some observations of Crookes conflict with such a claim. On page 104 he

states, "When Katie was outside the cabinet, standing before me, I heard a moaning noise from Miss Cook in the cabinet." On page 105 he says not more than three seconds passed between him seeing Katie in a white robe and seeing Florence Cook in black clothes. On page 107 Crookes recalls seeing Katie and Florence in separate places of the room. On that page he also notes physical differences between the two, such as: Katie being between four and a half inches taller and six inches taller than Florence (even though Katie was barefoot and not tip-toeing); Katie having a very fair complexion that differed from Florence's dark complexion; and Katie having much longer fingers than Florence, and a much larger face. The numerous people seeing Katie King (such as Crookes) reported her being barefoot, so the substantial difference in height between Katie and Florence (also reported by other sources) seemingly rules out the idea of Florence masquerading as Katie.

Using the exact parapsychology terminology, we would call Katie King a "full-form mediumistic materialization," but using my previous definition of a ghost (as a human form, full or partial, that appears and disappears mysteriously), we can call Katie King a ghost. Crookes took some clear photographs of the mysterious figure, which can be seen by doing a Google image search for "Katie King." The image below is from [this](#) archive.



Crookes notes [on page 66](#) that Florence Cook agreed to every test he proposed, and that "I have never seen anything approaching the slightest symptom of a wish to deceive."

Some have tried to write off the case of Katie King by suggesting that it was all a fraud cooked up by Crookes and Florence Cook. No one has ever presented a plausible reason for such a fraud, and there is no evidence for the claim of fraud. An 1876 book entitled "The Proof Palpable of Immortality" by Epes Sargent (which can be read using [this](#) link to see the third edition or [this](#) link to see the first edition) quotes at great length (pages 50-70) the testimony of quite a few witnesses who testified to the mysterious and paranormal appearances of the phantom Katie King in many different seances of Florence

Cook in 1873, before Crookes even started his investigation (which began in 1874). These witnesses include Emily Kislingbury, Dr. J. M. Gully, Benjamin Coleman, a Dr. Sexton, Prince Emile, Amelia Corner, Caroline Corner, J. C. Luxmoore, G. R. Tapp, and W. H. Harrison. On page 58 of the book Coleman is quoted as saying Katie King “glided about rather than walked.” Some report Katie appearing even though Florence Cook was tied to a chair. On page 54 of the book, Dr. J. M. Gully is quoted as saying this in 1874:

"To the special question which you put regarding my experiences of the materialization of the spirit-form, with Miss Cook's mediumship, I must reply that, after two years' examination of the fact and numerous séances, I have not the smallest doubt, and have the strongest conviction, that such materialization takes place, and that not the slightest attempt at trick or deception is fairly attributable to any one who assisted at Miss Cook's séances."

Gully asserts on page 54 of the book that the Katie King materialization was something that came on quite gradually over several months in the years 1872-1873, with the full form appearing only after partial human forms had been seen. He says this:

"That the power grows with use was curiously illustrated by the fact that, for some time, only a face was producible, with, occasionally, arms and hands ; with no hair, and sometimes with no back to the skull at all-merely a mask, with movement, however, of eyes and mouth. Gradually the whole form appeared-after, perhaps, some five months of séances once or twice a week. This again became more and more rapidly formed, and changed, in hair, dress, and color of face, as we desired."

The book also cites numerous witnesses to the Crookes sessions with Florence Cook in which Katie King appeared, and cites their testimony that the phenomenon was authentic. For example, on page 106 a Mrs. Ross-Church states the following:

"Whatever Katie King was on the evening of the 9th of May [1874], she was not Miss Cook. To that fact I am ready to take my most solemn oath. She repeated the same experiment with me on the 13th, and on that occasion we had the benefit of mutual sight also, as the whole company were invited to crowd around the door whilst the curtain was withdrawn and the gas turned up to the full, in order that we might see the medium, in her blue dress and scarlet shawl, lying in a trance on the floor; whilst the white-robed spirit stood beside her."

The average reader probably has never heard of any of these cases, although he or she may have read numerous articles on the topic of ghosts. What we must remember is that when mainstream thinkers discuss the paranormal, they usually keep us in carefully filtered information bubbles, hiding from us all the better cases of paranormal

phenomena. There is a slogan "history is written by the winners." Gaining predominance in universities, today's dogmatic professors are the winners who present their own biased accounts of what happened long ago, passing everything through the distortion prism of their own prejudices. To find out what actually happened decades or centuries ago, always go back to the original accounts of those who witnessed things.

In the [next part](#) of this three-part series of blog posts, I will report on some ghost accounts perhaps even more astounding than those reported by Crookes. Interestingly, the reports I will discuss were made by an eminent scientist who was one of the two co-founders of a theory that is supported with great zeal by the type of people who are *least* likely to believe in ghosts. Part 3 of this 3-part series can be read [here](#).

Postscript: The book by Sargent I mentioned above is good evidence that the Katie King sightings do not merely rest on the testimony of Crookes, but were attested to by quite a few other eyewitnesses. Further evidence of that can be found in pages 15 to 18 of Alexander Aksakof's very interesting book "A Case of Partial Dematerialization of the Body of a Medium," which can be read in full [here](#) or [here](#). Aksakof [describes](#) in detail how he witnessed a session with Florence Cook on October 22, 1873, in a small dining room of a house where a curtain had been raised. He recalls seeing Florence being very carefully tied up with cord, knots and seals, and that within 15 minutes Katie King appeared. His account then states that just after he saw Katie King vanish, he saw Florence Cook tied up behind the curtain. He states he then saw Katie King reappear again, before disappearing. He reports that at the end of the session Florence Cook was found to be tied up in knots just as she was at the start. He says [this](#):

"Mr. Luxmore requested me to make a careful examination of the cords, knots and seals. All were intact, and when he asked me to cut the bands I could hardly introduce the scissors beneath them, so tightly were the hands tied. My confidence in the genuineness of this manifestation is absolute."

Pages 164-175 of the work [here](#) describes the Katie King apparition or materialization as beginning on April 22, 1872, and discusses numerous appearances and witnesses. Further testimony to the reality of the Katie King apparition or materialization can be found in Chapter XVI of the interesting book *There Is No Death* by Florence Marryat, which can be read [here](#) or [here](#). Marryat says on page 140 that Katie King was sometimes much taller than Florence Cook. She says on page 141: "I have seen both Florrie and 'Katie' together on several occasions, so I can have no doubt on the subject that they were two separate creatures."

Marryat describes various conversations she had with Katie King, including one in which she saw Katie King naked. On page 143 Marryat describes seeing the form of Katie King gradually disappear:

"Then three gas-burners were turned on to their full extent in a room about sixteen feet square. The effect upon 'Katie King' was marvellous. She looked like herself for the space of a second only, then she began gradually to melt away. I can compare the dematerialization of her form to nothing but a wax doll melting before a hot fire. First, the features became blurred and indistinct; they seemed to run into each other. The eyes sunk in the sockets, the nose disappeared, the frontal bone fell in. Next the limbs appeared to give way under her; and she sank lower and lower on the carpet like a crumbling edifice. At last there was nothing but her head left above the ground—then a heap of white drapery only, which disappeared with a whisk, as if a hand had pulled it after her—and we were left staring by the light of three gas-burners at the spot on which 'Katie King' had stood."

On page 213 of [Volume 8](#) of the Annals of Psychical Science (1909), we read the following about Florence Cook and the "Katie King" phantom or materialization:

"The most elaborate scientific test made concerning them is published in The Spiritualist of March 20th, 1874 (p. 134), by Cromwell Varley, F.R.S., the Atlantic cable electrician. The object of the test was to establish the separate identity of the medium and the materialised form. It was made in the presence of Mr. J. C. Luxmoore, J.P., Mr. William Crookes, Mrs. Crookes, Mrs. Cook, Mr. G. R. Tapp, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Varley. The medium [Florence Cook], who sat in a small cabinet, was put in circuit with an electric battery and galvanometer, by means of electrodes placed over pads of moist blotting paper attached to her arms a little above her wrists. Matters were so arranged that the medium could not leave the cabinet without the fact being instantly detected. Katie appeared outside the cabinet and went through various motions as requested, showing both her arms. The galvanometer remained practically undisturbed. In many instances Katie was only partly materialised. If "the power" was failing her legs would dissolve away, and her head would remain to the last, while she would go on speaking. In another case the back of her head was wanting, but on the fact being pointed out to her she quickly completed it."

At the link [here](#), you can read an 1858 report of someone (Dr. F. C. Gunst) who had witnessed three meetings Daniel Dunglas Home had in Amsterdam with between five to ten people described as "the most unbelieving of all unbelievers." The witness describes a dramatic variety of paranormal phenomena occurring under good illumination, including mysterious rappings from all sides of a room, mysterious table slidings and table liftings, the witnesses feeling as if they were touched by invisible hands, and "a complete rocking movement of the ceiling which became so violent that, together with the chairs on which we were seated, we felt ourselves going up and down as if on a rocking-horse." Below is an excerpt:

"We then ordered the table to become as light as possible so that we should be able to lift it with one finger. And so it came to pass. When the order was reversed (i.e., to increase the table's weight) the table could hardly be lifted at all in spite of our utmost efforts....The gentleman who had been touched declared that he felt something touching his cheek. The unbelievers loudly laughed at him, and all these men wanted also to be touched. Their desire was at once gratified. The one was touched on his arm, another felt something touching his knee, a third one was contacted on his cheek, etc. This went on to such an extent that one only needed to think of a limb or of some other part of one's body to be touched and at the very same moment this wish would be fulfilled. In the case of one of us, this touching and contacting went on continuously during twenty minutes and the touching took place on various parts of his body.... We saw the phenomena happening but could not explain them. And nothing could be observed that could give rise to even the slightest suspicion that Mr. Home was acting in a fraudulent manner."

At the link [here](#) you can read the book "Experiences in Spiritualism with Mr. D. D. Home" by the Earl of Dunraven. The book is a long account of seances with Daniel Dunglas Home, by an eyewitness. The book was originally privately printed in small numbers in the nineteenth century, and was later reprinted in full in Volume 35 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research (1926), when the book got much wider readership.

At the link [here](#) there is a quotation from a Dutch researcher named A. J. Riko, who describes seeing Katie King and Florence Cook as two separate figures, one wearing ear ornaments and the other not wearing ear ornaments.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [10:46 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [levitation](#), [life after death](#), [mediums](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Monday, October 15, 2018

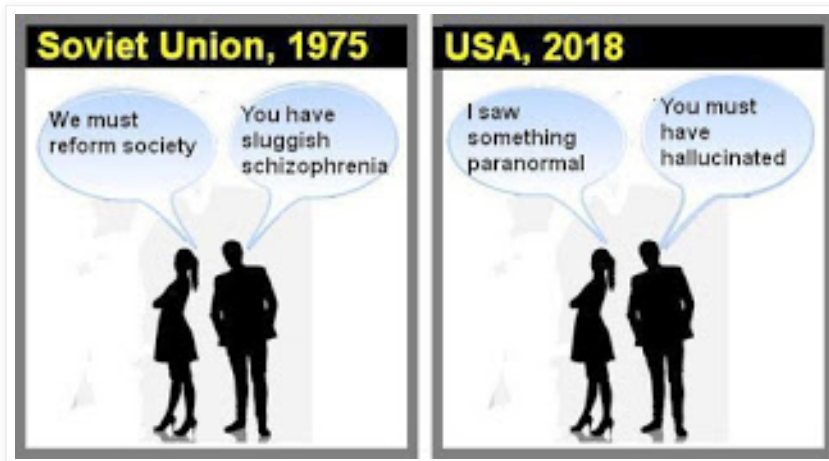
For Widows and Widowers, the Paranormal Is Rather Normal

Our materialist skeptics frequently try to suggest that people who report paranormal experiences are some kind of rare freaks. Such insinuations are contrary to actual experience, in which we find that reports of paranormal phenomena are very common. Those who wish to get a better understanding of just how common are human reports of the paranormal should go to a public library and look for a good handbook of parapsychology, or the three-volume *Gale Encyclopedia of the Unusual and Unexplained*. You can actually read this excellent publication online by using [this](#) link, [this](#) link and [this](#) link. (These links worked fine last week, although there is now a message saying the link is offline until November.) Other sources of information include the very recent Psi Encyclopedia of the SPR (available [here](#)), and the much older 1932 *Encyclopedia of Psychic Science* by Nandor Fodor available [here](#).

You will read in the *Gale Encyclopedia of the Unusual and Unexplained* countless cases of paranormal human experience. Polls indicate that large fractions of the population report direct experience with the paranormal. A scientific [paper](#) refers to a 2006 poll finding 52% of men and 56% of women saying they had waking ESP experiences. A 2015 Pew Research [poll](#) found that 18% of Americans said they've seen or been in the presence of a ghost, and that 29% said that they've felt in touch with someone who died.

Among widows and widowers the percentage is even higher. A recent meta-analysis compared several studies on widows and widowers who reported seeing or hearing their departed spouses, or having a sense of their presence. The [meta-analysis](#) found that 56% of widows and widowers had such experiences.

In the meta-analysis I previously mentioned such experiences are referred to as hallucinations. This is an appallingly subjective and judgmental term that should not be used in objective scientific literature, unless a paper is dealing with people under psychiatric treatment for mental illnesses. A more appropriate term would be an objective non-judgmental term such as “anomalous experience.” There is no evidence that any pathology is involved when widows or widowers report seeing, hearing, or having a presence of a departed love one. Modern day scientists who attempt to portray paranormal experiences as pathology are comparable to 1950's psychiatrists who attempted to portray homosexuality as pathology, and psychiatrists in the Soviet Union who attempted to categorize political dissidents as people suffering from “[sluggish schizophrenia](#).”



Those who discuss the high number of anomalous sensory experiences of widows and widowers will often insinuate that such experiences are some kind of coping mechanism in which the brain generates hallucinations to ease stress or sadness. But other than people who report seeing or hearing deceased loved ones, there is essentially zero evidence that humans ever have anything like hallucinations to make themselves feel better in times of stress or sadness. Let us consider these facts:

1. As shown on the TV show *American Greed*, there are very many people who have been swindled out of their life savings, losing decades of their savings. But none of these people ever had a “comforting hallucination” in which they saw something like a stack of cash on their dining room table to make themselves feel better.
2. We have many historical experiences of people who put their hearts and souls into a war, only to be bitterly disappointed when their country lost the war, and was occupied by a foreign power. There are no cases of any such people having a “comforting hallucination” in which they learned that it was a mistake, and their side really won the war.
3. Many people have the greatest emotional involvement in a romance, only to have their fondest dream crushed when they are dumped by their loved one, or have their marriage proposal rejected. None of these people have ever had a comforting hallucination in which they saw or heard their loved one say something like, “I’ve changed my mind; let’s stay together.”
4. There are many people who learn they have cancer, and begin to suffer from it. None of them have “comforting hallucinations” in which they see a doctor telling them their cancer has been cured.

So since sad and depressed and grief-stricken people other than widows and widowers do not have hallucinations to make them feel better, it is implausible to be evoking the concept of “comforting hallucinations” to explain the anomalous experiences of widows and widowers.

Scientific papers and scientific literature often make unnecessary use of terms that draw unnecessary and inappropriate conclusions about the source or nature of a phenomenon. In the second and third rows of the table below we see two examples of such inappropriate language, along with a similar example of poor phrasing that an ordinary observer might make.

Statement	Problem with statement	Better way to make statement
“I first started seeing the extraterrestrial spaceship when I noticed a bright blue light in the sky. The extraterrestrial spaceship moved quickly across the sky, until it vanished from view.”	We do not know that unidentified lights in the sky are extraterrestrial spaceships, so why use such a phrase in describing them?	“I first started seeing the sky anomaly when I noticed a bright blue light in the sky. The sky anomaly moved quickly across the sky, until it vanished from view.”
“When your brain considers two different choices, your brain sometimes hesitates	We do not know that brains produce thoughts or decisions, and no	“When you consider two different choices, you sometimes hesitate because you

because it does not see an obviously superior choice. But usually your brain chooses one of these options fairly quickly, even though it may not be able to explain the exact reason.”	one has any idea of how neurons could produce a thought or make a decision.	do not see an obviously superior choice. But usually you choose one of these options fairly quickly, even though you may not be able to explain the exact reason.”
“A large percentage of widows and widowers have hallucinations in which they report seeing, hearing or sensing their deceased spouse. ”	We do not know that such reports are hallucinations, and they may result from causal factors outside of the mind of the observer.	“A large percentage of widows and widowers have anomalous experiences in which they report seeing, hearing or sensing their deceased spouse. ”

In table 8 of the study [here](#), there is a list of various studies done involving anomalous experiences. For example, in Arcangel's study of 827 people, 64% responded affirmatively to the question, “Have you experienced an encounter after the death of a loved one?”

In addition to a large fraction or majority of widows and widowers reporting seeing, hearing or sensing a deceased person, there are also very many others who report baffling hard-to-explain occurrences that they suspect could be caused by some spiritual presence. Most of these cases are not picked up by the type of questions typically asked by the surveys listed in that table.

For this reason I strongly suspect that the actual number of widows and widowers who have paranormal experiences is much higher than the 56% cited in the meta-analysis I referred to. Another reason for this suspicion is the strong likelihood of under-reporting on this topic. Our society often stigmatizes anyone who reports a paranormal experience. Report a paranormal experience, and there will always be some people who will ridicule you or say or think that you have lost your mind. Given this appalling stigmatization effect, we should imagine that the actual number of people having a paranormal experience is far greater than the number who report the experience in surveys, and that a large fraction of those who have the experience will never report it for fear of being ridiculed or accused of a mental problem.

One could summarize the situation by saying that for widows and widowers, the paranormal is rather normal.

It is interesting that Haraldsson found that college education did not seem to cause any decline in the reporting of paranormal experiences. In a [paper](#) he compared a 1974 poll in Iceland showing 59% of men and 71% of women reporting some psychic experience to a 2006 poll

showing 70% of men reporting psychic experience and 81% of women reporting such a thing. Between 1974 and 2006 the number of college-educated people in Iceland had increased from 6% to 36%.

Postscript: A recent Groupon [survey](#) of 2000 people found that more than 60% claim to have seen a ghost.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [10:15 AM](#)

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Monday, April 15, 2019

When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 Cases

Apparitions have been by humans throughout history. Skeptics claim that such apparitions are just hallucinations. But there are two reasons for rejecting such a theory. The first reason is that there are an unusually high fraction of apparition sightings in which a person sees an apparition of someone (typically someone the observer did not know was in danger), and then later finds out that this person died on the same day (or the same day and hour) as the apparition was seen. We would expect such cases to be extremely rare or nonexistent if apparitions are mere hallucinations, since all such cases would require a most unlikely coincidence. But the literature on apparitions shows that it is quite common for an apparition to appear to someone on the day (or both the day and hour) of the death of the person matching the apparition. See [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) for 100 such cases.

The second reason for rejecting claims that apparitions are mere hallucinations is the fact that an apparition is quite often seen or heard by more than one person at the same time. We should not expect any such cases under a theory of apparitions being hallucinations.

I will now review some examples of cases in which an apparition was seen or heard by more than one person. A very early case is found in the 17th century book *Miscellanies* by John Aubrey. On [page 82](#) we are told that a week after his death, an apparition of Henry Jacob appeared to Dr. Jacob, and that the apparition was also seen by his cook and maid.

Below are some cases from Volume 2 of the classic work on apparitions, “Phantasms of the Living,” which you can read [here](#). I will use the case numbers given in the book.

Page 174, Case #310: A reverend Fagan, his cousin Christopher, and a Major Collis all heard the name “Fagan” called from a source they could not determine. Two of them said

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the voice was like the voice of Captain Clayton. The next morning a telegram arrived saying that Captain Clayton had died on the same day and hour as the voice was heard. (I won't count his case as one of my 17 cases, since it is auditory only.)

Page 178, Case #312: Gorgiana Polson reported seeing a woman who she thought was “something unnatural” and exclaimed, “Oh, Caroline.” The woman was dressed in black silk “with a muslin 'cloud' over her head and shoulders.” At the same time, a “little nursery girl” was terrified of going into a room where she saw a similar strange figure, “in black, with white all over her head and shoulders.” Gorgiana later found that Caroline had died on the same day the apparition was seen.

Page 181, Case #314: A Mrs. Coote reported that she saw her sister-in-law Mrs. W. appear at her bedside. The same Mrs. W. reportedly appeared to Mrs. Coote's aunt, appearing as a “bright light from a dark corner of the bedroom,” who was recognized as Mrs. W. by the aunt. Also, according to Mrs. Coote, “this appearance was also made to my husband's half-sister.” It was soon found that Mrs. W. had died. According to Mrs. Coote “A comparison of dates...served to show the appearance occurred ...at the time of, or shortly thereafter, the death of the deceased.”

Page 182, Case #315: A Mr. de Guerin reported that in 1854, he saw something that “appeared like a thin white fog....after a few minutes I plainly distinguished a figure which I recognized as that of my sister Fanny.” He said “the vision seemed to disappear gradually in the same manner as it came.” He later learned that “on the same day my sister died – almost suddenly.” de Guerin immediately mailed a description of what he had seen to another sister, Mrs. Elmslie, who lived far away; “but before it reached her, I had received a letter from her, giving me an almost similar description of what she had seen the same night, adding 'I am sure dear Fanny is gone.' ” She reported that the apparition disappeared.

Page 196-197, Case #317: Violet Montgomery and Sidney Montgomery reported that in 1875 they had seen a female figure that “never touched the ground at all, but floated calmly along.” Page 197 also mentions a Mr. W.S. Soutar, who claimed that he and his brother also saw a female figure that glided without any apparent movement of the feet.

Page 213, Case #330: A James Cowley said he “saw, with all the distinctness possible to visual power” an apparition of his late wife. At the same instant his two-year-old son said, “There's mother!”

Page 213, Case #331: Charles A.W. Lett said that six weeks after the death of Captain Townes, his wife and Miss Berthon reported seeing a half-apparition of Captain Townes, consisting of only his head and shoulders. According to Lett, several other people saw the apparition,

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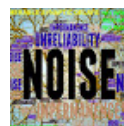


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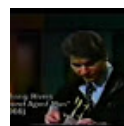
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identifying it as Captain Townes; and then the apparition “gradually faded away.”

Page 235, Case #345: A Mrs. Cox was told by a nephew that he had just seen his father (Mrs. Cox's brother), who was thought to be far away in Hong Kong. Mrs. Cox told the boy this was nonsense, but then saw the same apparition of her brother. She reported that the apparition called her name three times. She soon found out that her brother had died on the same day the apparition was seen.

Page 241, Case #349: In 1845 while at college Philip Weld died in a boating accident. The president of the college immediately set out to travel to the father of Philip to deliver the bad news. Arriving the next day, he was surprised to hear the father say that yesterday he and his daughter had recently seen Philip walking between two persons, one wearing a black robe. “Suddenly they all seemed to me to have vanished,” said the father. Later, the father saw a portrait that he identified as one of the men who he had seen with the apparition of his son. The portrait was of a saint who had died long ago.

Page 247, Case #351: In 1882 J. Bennett and her daughter saw a man whose health they were worried about: “He passed so near that we shrank aside to make way for him.” Later “we found, in fact, that he had died about a half hour before he appeared to us.”

Page 248-249, Case #352: At quarter to 7 on July 11, 1879, Samuel Falkenburg observed his son exclaim “Grandpa!” Samuel looked up toward the ceiling and “saw the face of my father as plainly as I ever saw him in my life.” Soon thereafter he found out that his father died on July 11, 1879, at quarter to 7.

Page 253, Case #354: A girl went to live far away from her beloved aunt who had raised her for most of her childhood. One day someone other than the girl said, “Oh look there! There's your aunt in bed with Caroline!” The girl was astonished to see her aunt lying on the bed. A short time later the aunt seemed to have disappeared. Later the girl found the aunt had died, and that her last words were a remark that she could die happy because she had seen the child.



Page 248-249, Case #352: At quarter to 7 on July 11, 1879, Samuel Falkenburg observed his son exclaim “Grandpa!” Samuel looked up toward the ceiling and “saw the face of my father as plainly as I ever



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saw him in my life.” Soon thereafter he found out that his father died on July 11, 1879, at quarter to 7.

Page 604, Case 651: Benjamin Coleman was surprised to see at his bedside his son, who was believed to be far away at sea. The figure (having a sailor's dress) vanished from Benjamin's sight. He then soon heard his servant William Ball say that William also had seen the son that day in sailor's dress. The father later found that the son "had died that very day and hour, of dysentery, on board ship."

Page 611, Case 658: Chatting in bed, Elizabeth and Henriette both saw a strange light, which they both said was beautiful. Elizabeth then said it was little Mary Stanger, and that she was "floating away." It was later learned that Mary Stanger had "died at the exact time" the two girls had seen the vision.

On [page 40-43](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an astonishing case of an apparition seen by multiple observers. Unlike the other cases I have reported, this is an example of an apparition of a living person. According to Flammarion's account, 13 girls saw an apparition of a school teacher named Emilie Sagee, right next to her physical form, so that there was "one beside the other." "They were exactly alike, and going through the same movements," according to Flammarion, who states, "All the young girls, without exception, had seen the second form, and agreed perfectly in their description of the phenomenon." Later, according to his account, 42 pupils saw an apparition of Sagee in a school at the same time Sagee was also observed picking flowers in a garden -- as if there were two copies of Emilie Sagee. According to the pupils, the apparition "gradually vanished." Flammarion reports, "The forty-two pupils described the phenomenon in the same way." Such an observation may possibly be evidence for the idea that each of us has an "astral body" different from our physical body. The apparition observed may have been a rare sighting of such a thing appearing before death.

Flammarion reports a similar case of an apparition of the living on [page 49-50](#) of his book. Two observers saw a Miss Jackson warming her hands before a fire. "Suddenly, before their very eyes, she disappeared," according to Flammarion. Half an hour later, Miss Jackson entered the room and warmed her hands before the fire.

I have 17 other cases of apparitions seen by multiple observers, which are described in [this](#) post.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [9:26 AM](#)

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Friday, March 22, 2019

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The Navigation Argument Against the Idea That Your Brain Stores All Your Memories

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Three previous posts on this blog have summarized accounts of people who saw an apparition of someone, or heard a mysterious voice from someone they knew, only to soon find that such a person had died (usually on the same day, and very often on the same hour and day as the apparition was seen). Each of these posts described 25 different cases. The posts are below:

<https://futureandcosmos.blogspot.com/2019/02/25-who-were-ghost-told-of-death.html>

<https://futureandcosmos.blogspot.com/2019/02/25-more-who-were-ghost-told-of-death.html>

<https://futureandcosmos.blogspot.com/2019/03/scientific-americans-very-lame-ghost.html>

There are still 25 additional such cases that I will list in this post. You may ask: why am I writing more on this topic that I have already written on three times? The reason is to help show how common it is for apparitions to appear unexpectedly to someone who later found that a person matching the apparition died on the same day. If apparitions are mere hallucinations, we should expect it to be incredibly rare that someone should see an apparition of someone he did not know was dead, and then to learn that person had died on the same day or the same hour and day. So if it can be shown that a large number of apparition sightings involve cases where someone sees an apparition of someone he did not know was dead, and then found that such a person died on the same day as the sighting, the claim that apparition sightings are mere hallucinations will be discredited.

Let us now look at 25 more of these cases, not mentioned in my previous posts on this topic. Below are some cases from Volume 2 of the classic work on apparitions, *Phantasms of the Living* by Edmund Gurney, Frederick Myers, and Frank Podmore. Just click on the links below to bring up this work online, going to the exact pages of the accounts I refer to.

Page 501, Case 541: On a train George Barker heard a woman say she had seen her son drowning before her eyes, and that it was so real she could not believe she was traveling on a train. George's tutor became acquainted with the woman, and found that two weeks later word arrived that her son (in the Navy) had indeed drowned while rowing from ship to shore. Noting that he was a disbeliever in anything ghostly, Barker stated, "I have no doubt that the time was *exactly* the same....The time of the upsetting of the boat was, allowing for the change between the two distances, as nearly corresponding as possible."

Page 511, Case 552: Mrs. Rooke stated that on a day in October, she saw an apparition of a friend of hers, and that the apparition vanished as she approached it. She later found out the friend had died. She said that the sighting might have occurred at the same time as the death (but sounded uncertain about the timing).

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Page 513, Case 555: On September 22, a Mrs. Perryn saw an apparition of her mother, who seemed to be enveloped in a faint smoke. She later found out that her mother died on the same day at another location.

Page 514, Case 557: A Mary C. saw an apparition of an old woman she knew, an apparition that vanished suddenly as she looked at it. She later found that the woman died on the same day.

Page 516, Cases 559-560: Hickman Heather said that his father saw an apparition of his mother (Hickman's grandmother) early in the morning while walking home, and that Hickman's grandmother suddenly died on the same day. Hickman also reported that his father had seen his brother Ned (Hickman's uncle) appear at a time when it was "impossible that my Uncle Ned could be there." In "about a couple of hours" word came that Ned had died.

Page 519, Case 562: A young boy reported seeing his father, Captain Skyring, although his father was far away on a naval expedition. Shortly thereafter the boy's mother received word Captain Skyring had been murdered "on the day in question," apparently the same day the boy saw the apparition. Earlier Captain Skyring himself reported seeing an apparition of his mother while away from England, and then found upon returning to England that his mother had died on the same day as the apparition. In both this case and the previous case we have astonishing accounts of two "veridical apparition" sightings in a single family.



Just some spooky clip art

Page 520, Case 563: Young Jane Barford was sent away two miles to an aunt while her father was ill. One day she saw her father unexpectedly at a quarter before 7, and said "I knew it could not be my living father." She hurried home, to be told that her father had died that day, at a quarter before 7.

Page 521, Case 566: Mrs. Morris saw "little G." carrying two lilies, and the apparition disappeared as she looked at it. She

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- [disintegrating asteroid](#) (1)
- [DNA](#) (11)
- [dogs](#) (1)
- [double standards in science](#) (3)
- [doubt](#) (1)
- [dowsing](#) (1)
- [dreams](#) (7)
- [drones](#) (1)
- [dwarf galaxies](#) (1)

later found that the same person had died on the same day. She was told that G. had been given lilies just before he died, and was delighted with them, and had held them shortly before dying; and that they were now in the hand of G.

Page 522, Case 567: Mrs. Amos stated that she saw an apparition of her mother while Mrs. Amos and her husband were in bed. She discussed the sight with her husband, who was unable to see the strange sight. "After that she vanished slowly away," stated Mrs. Amos, who received a letter the next day telling her the mother had died.

Page 522-523, Case 568: A man far away from his mother was surprised to see an apparition of his mother and his dead sister. He tried lighting a candle, but "the apparitions had already faded away." He soon found that his mother had died on about the same day.

Page 526, Case 572: While at a church service, an H.C. saw an apparition of a friend's face. H.C. later found that the friend had died on the same day.

Page 542, Case 590: A boy at a boarding school was astonished to see on April 1 an apparition of his mother, who lived about 250 miles away. He later found that his mother had died on April 1.

Page 545, Case 594: A man saw his wife passing by him in a field. She must have looked spooky, for he then said to a friend, "I am sure my wife is dead." He then found out that his wife had died at the same time the sight was seen.

Page 550, Case 601: A Mr. Milton reported seeing his son in his cellar, at a time when the son was believed to be at sea. A few weeks later Mr. Milton received word from the captain of the ship that Mr. Milton's son had died on the same night as the sight was seen in the cellar.

Page 554, Case 606: In Ceylon (now called Sri Lanka), a Mr. Selby saw a strange sight that caused him to write down, "My wife died 13 minutes to 6 o'clock." A month later he found out that his wife had died in England within a few hours of the time he wrote the note.

Page 583, Case 636: A woman "saw her son coming through the wall, and making his exit through the opposite wall." She then found out an hour later that her son had drowned.

Page 604, Case 651: Benjamin Coleman was surprised to see at his bedside his son, who was believed to be far away at sea. The figure (wearing sailor clothes) vanished from Benjamin's sight. He then soon heard his servant William Ball say that

- [dwarf galaxy rotation anomaly](#) (1)
- [dystopia](#) (1)
- [early habitability epoch](#) (1)
- [early Universe](#) (2)
- [easy life hypothesis](#) (3)
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- [elections](#) (1)
- [electromagnetic pulse attack](#) (1)
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- [emergence](#) (1)
- [EMP](#) (1)
- [end of the world](#) (5)
- [energy crisis](#) (3)
- [energy forecast](#) (1)
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- [entropy](#) (3)
- [environmental degradation](#) (5)
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- [Ethics](#) (7)
- [Europa](#) (2)
- [evolution](#) (55)
- [experts](#) (10)
- [extent of paranormal beliefs](#) (1)
- [extrasolar planets](#) (7)
- [extraterrestrial life](#) (42)
- [extraterrestrials](#) (31)
- [faint young sun paradox](#) (2)
- [fast radio bursts](#) (1)
- [fate of the universe](#) (1)
- [Fermi's paradox](#) (7)
- [fine-tuned universe](#) (7)
- [Flynn effect](#) (1)
- [forecasting](#) (1)
- [Fourth Dimension](#) (1)
- [free will](#) (3)
- [fundamental constants](#) (5)
- [fundamental forces](#) (4)
- [funerals](#) (1)
- [future contrasts](#) (2)
- [future entertainment](#) (2)
- [future eras](#) (1)
- [future happiness](#) (2)
- [future movies](#) (1)
- [future of consciousness](#) (2)
- [future of man](#) (18)
- [future problems](#) (4)
- [future risks](#) (2)
- [future technology](#) (11)
- [future weapons](#) (1)

William also had seen the son that day in sailor dress. The father later found that the son "had died that very day and hour, of dysentery, on board ship."

Page 611, Case 658: Chatting in bed, Elizabeth and Henriette both saw a strange light, which they both said was beautiful. Elizabeth then said it was little Mary Stanger, and that she was "floating away." It was later learned that Mary Stanger had "died at the exact time" the two girls had seen the vision.

Page 612, Case 659: A sibling and the sibling's sister were surprised to see at the sibling's bedside the sibling's brother, who was believed to be far away doing a job for a reigning prince. Three weeks later word came that the brother "had died the same night, and the same hour."

Page 613, Case 660: Two brothers were in bed when they both saw the apparition of a lady to whom their father was engaged. She died suddenly that same night.

Page 615-616, Case 662: Between 6 and 7 o'clock, a woman, her brother and her mother all saw Ellen, the woman's sister. The woman "tried to catch hold of her, but seemed to catch nothing." The next day they found out that Ellen had drowned "a little before seven" on the same they saw the apparition.

Page 616, Case 663: A woman saw her husband's mother. When she cried out, the husband looked up, and "the apparition vanished." On the same evening, two male children of the woman saw a strange silent female figure pacing back and forth in their bedrooms. It was later found that the husband's mother had died on the same evening.

Page 617-618, Case 665: Two brothers woke to see standing between their cots the figure of their father. When one of the brothers rose up, the figure vanished. They later found that their father had died at the same hour.

Page 622, Case 667: Four people were startled to see an apparition that disappeared just after a woman screamed "He's dead." Word later arrived that a person corresponding to the apparition had been murdered far away on the same night. The account says, "his spirit appeared to his wife, his child, an elder sister, and myself."

The account just cited is not a rare one -- for there are quite a few cases of apparitions being seen by multiple observers at the same time. See [here](#) and [here](#) for 34 such cases.

See [here](#) for a very recent account of someone "ghost told" of a death, dating from May 2019. See [here](#) for another recent account of someone "ghost told" of a death.

- [futurology](#) (2)
- [galactic empire](#) (1)
- [galaxies](#) (5)
- [galaxy formation](#) (6)
- [galaxy spin anomaly](#) (1)
- [gamma ray bursts](#) (2)
- [genes](#) (10)
- [genetic engineering](#) (11)
- [genetics](#) (9)
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- [ghosts](#) (28)
- [ghosts.](#) (1)
- [global consciousness project](#) (2)
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- [GMO](#) (3)
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- [Great Filter](#) (2)
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- [hierarchy problem](#) (1)
- [Higgs mass](#) (1)
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- [human body plan](#) (1)
- [human extinction](#) (2)
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- [hurricanes](#) (1)
- [hypermnesia](#) (1)
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- [hypnotic trance](#) (8)
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- [ideological regimes](#) (1)
- [immortality](#) (3)
- [inflation theory](#) (6)
- [information](#) (1)
- [integrated information theory](#) (1)
- [interplanetary travel](#) (1)
- [interstellar colonization](#) (3)
- [interstellar communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar radio communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar travel](#) (8)
- [Iraq war](#) (1)
- [Kepler Space Telescope](#) (2)

Postscript: Here is another case from Volume 2 of *Phantasms of the Living*, [page 538](#):

"My aunt lived at the time in Portland Place, W., and was entertaining a large party one evening. Suddenly they remarked she seemed to be in great pain and agony, exclaiming quite aloud to her guests, 'Oh, do go home. I have seen a most fearful sight, and am compelled to break up the party.' Some of her most intimate friends asked her what she had seen. She replied that she was certain 'her husband F. had been killed in a battle, and that she most distinctly saw his body being carried to the rear by his soldiers.' She remained in great anxiety for weeks, when the sad news confirming her vision arrived from America, and that at the hour she made the exclamation to her guests, her husband, F., of the Dragoons (allowing for difference of longitude), was killed in an attack made on the enemy at the battle of Saratoga."

Two historical accounts of the battle were checked by the authors of *Phantasms of the Living*, who found that the brigadier general in question (Simon Fraser) was wounded at the battle of Saratoga, that he was removed from the battle scene, and that he died the next day.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [9:32 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"

This month the website of Scientific American had an [article](#) entitled "Six Possible Scientific Reasons for Ghosts." It's a very lame list of explanations. They are the following:

1. "Low frequency sound." Low-frequency sound or infrasound can be produced by things such as earthquakes, avalanches, volcanoes, diesel engines and wind turbines. Since there is no evidence that such a thing can produce anything more than a chill or a feeling of uneasiness, and since 99% of apparition sightings do not occur where there are significant amounts of low frequency sound, this explanation is basically worthless in explaining apparition sightings.

2. "Mold." The evidence that mold can produce hallucinations is not strong. [This](#) report (around pages 60 to 85) by the World Health Organization makes a comprehensive and authoritative analysis of the effects of mold. While the study notes lots of respiratory effects, it does nothing to substantiate any psychiatric problems caused by mold. The study's one comment on the topic is this statement: "The Institute of Medicine (2004)

- [Kepler-78b](#) (1)
- [ketamine](#) (1)
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- [language acquisition](#) (1)
- [Large Hadron Collider](#) (2)
- [laws of nature](#) (5)
- [LCDM theory](#) (1)
- [leisure](#) (1)
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- [life after death](#) (44)
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- [Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment](#) (1)
- [Mad Scientist](#) (1)
- [Many Worlds theory](#) (6)
- [Mars](#) (11)
- [Mars lights](#) (4)
- [Mars strange objects](#) (8)
- [materialism](#) (7)
- [materialism as religion](#) (2)
- [mathematical universe hypothesis](#) (1)
- [mathematics](#) (2)
- [meat consumption](#) (1)
- [medical technology](#) (2)
- [mediums](#) (13)
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- [memory](#) (41)
- [memory implant](#) (1)
- [memory retrieval](#) (3)
- [memory traces](#) (16)
- [mental differences between animals and humans](#) (1)
- [meta-analysis](#) (1)
- [meteor](#) (1)
- [methodological naturalism](#) (1)
- [METI](#) (1)
- [mind](#) (7)
- [mind linking](#) (1)
- [mind over matter](#) (2)
- [mind uploading](#) (5)
- [mind-reading](#) (4)
- [miracles](#) (1)
- [missing heritability problem](#) (1)
- [molecular biology](#) (2)
- [MOND](#) (1)
- [morphic gravitation](#) (1)
- [morphogenesis](#) (8)
- [multiverse](#) (21)
- [mutations](#) (1)
- [mystery of existence](#) (1)
- [nanotechnology](#) (1)
- [natural history](#) (3)
- [natural selection](#) (24)
- [naturalism](#) (2)
- [nature](#) (2)

included only a few case reports, with inconsistent findings for neuropsychiatric effects." While a mold explanation might be conceivable to explain an apparition sighting in a very moldy environment like one of those abandoned mental hospitals where TV ghost investigators sometimes camp out, such an explanation is worthless for explaining 99% of apparition sightings, which do not occur in moldy places.

3. "Carbon monoxide." The claim that carbon monoxide can cause apparition sightings rests upon a single 1921 case. People discussing that case say something like, "An apparition was seen, and then their furnace was fixed -- their furnace must have caused the ghost sighting." But it is not scientific to suggest a causal relation based on a single association in time, just as it is not scientific to say, "Someone once saw a ghost on the night he ate zucchini, so zucchini eating explains ghost sightings." About 20,000 to 30,000 people are sickened by carbon monoxide each year in the US, and not even 1 in 100,000 has a ghost sighting when such a thing happens. In the 1921 case, headaches were reported (a typical symptom of carbon monoxide poisoning), and 99% of those who report apparitions do not report headaches at the time they see apparitions. So we can conclude that carbon monoxide is not a significant cause of apparition sightings.

4. "The power of suggestion." This can explain only very little, perhaps the kind of thing where you go to a supposedly haunted house, your friend says he feels a spooky chill, and you say, "Yeah, me too," through the power of suggestion. But the power of suggestion cannot explain an apparition sighting -- people don't hallucinate apparitions merely because of suggestions. And the vast majority of apparition sightings occur suddenly, in ordinary places, where no power of suggestion is going on.

5. "Drafts." This can explain only very little, like maybe a case of someone having a spooky chill if he camps out in an abandoned hospital. Drafts can't explain cases when people report seeing or hearing an apparition.

6. "We enjoy being afraid." This might explain a tiny bit of what's going on in "ghost tours," but is worthless for explain the vast majority of apparition sightings, which occur suddenly and unexpectedly.

The article's writer (Sabrina Stierwalt, an astrophysicist) shows no signs of having spent any time studying the literature regarding apparition sightings. The six items on the list are totally inadequate to explain two common types of apparition sightings. One very common type is when a terminally ill person (typically in a nice clean hospital) will report seeing an apparition of a dead person (typically a family member). In

- [near death experience](#) (21)
- [Neptune](#) (1)
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- [nonneuralism](#) (1)
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- [observer selection effect](#) (1)
- [ocean acidification](#) (1)
- [optogenetics](#) (1)
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- [overblown hype](#) (27)
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- [panspermia](#) (4)
- [paradoxes](#) (1)
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- [philosophy](#) (33)
- [philosophy of mind](#) (19)
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- [photography](#) (2)
- [physicalism](#) (2)
- [physics](#) (20)
- [pigs](#) (1)
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- [plant intelligence](#) (1)
- [pollution](#) (4)

their [book](#) *At the Hour of Death: A New Look at Evidence for Life After Death*, based on a wide survey of hospital personnel, the researchers Karl Osis and Erlendur Haraldsson showed that it is extremely common for dying patients in their last days to report seeing apparitions of deceased people.

Below are two accounts from page 3-4 of the book, which can be read by clicking on the link above and then clicking on the "Look Inside" link. The authors tell us that these accounts are "quite typical of more than a thousand cases of this sort that we have collected."

Case 1: "A seventy-year old patient had seen her deceased husband several times...She predicted her death, laid out her burial clothes, laid down in bed for a nap, and died about one hour later."

Case 2: A sixty-year-old woman "tortured by intestinal cancer" smiled and called "her [deceased] husband by name, and said she was coming to him....It was as if something beautiful had opened up to her."

Another common type of apparition sighting (not at all explicable by the six items on the Scientific American list) is what can be called sudden veridical apparitions. In such cases a person will unexpectedly experience an apparition of a person who was thought to be alive, only to later find out that such a person died, typically on the same day (and often the same day and hour) as the person who died. In two previous posts, [here](#) and [here](#), I have summarized a total of 50 such cases. In this post I will summarize 25+ more cases of this type, cases not mentioned in those posts.



Below are some cases from Volume 2 of "Phantasms of the Living," a classic two-volume work by Edmund Gurney,

- [polygamy](#) (1)
- [pork eating](#) (1)
- [post-scarcity economy](#) (1)
- [precognition](#) (12)
- [predictions](#) (4)
- [primordial fluctuations](#) (1)
- [primordial singularity](#) (1)
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- [prognostication](#) (2)
- [programmed material universe](#) (8)
- [protein folding](#) (5)
- [psychokinesis](#) (5)
- [psychology experiments](#) (1)
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- [pulsars](#) (1)
- [qigong](#) (1)
- [quantum biology](#) (1)
- [quantum computer universe](#) (1)
- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
- [quantum mechanics](#) (6)
- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
- [quasars](#) (1)
- [racism](#) (1)
- [radical abundance](#) (1)
- [random universes](#) (2)
- [randomness](#) (2)
- [receptacle theory of consciousness](#) (3)
- [recolonization of Earth](#) (1)
- [recommended books](#) (11)
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- [rejuvenation](#) (2)
- [remote viewing](#) (7)
- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
- [requirements underestimation](#) (4)
- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retrocognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
- [robots](#) (14)
- [rogue planet](#) (1)
- [savants](#) (4)
- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
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- [scientific explanation](#) (2)
- [scientific explanations](#) (7)

Frederic Myers and Frank Podmore. By following the links, you can go to the exact page of each case I have given. The very diligent writers of the book (and their helpers) checked out almost all of these cases, getting corroborating evidence. So, for example, if a husband reported seeing a particular thing, a wife might be asked to produce an account of what the husband said at the time. And if someone reported a death occurring at a particular day, public records were checked to see whether such a person's death occurred on that day.

Page 174, Case #310: A reverend Fagan, his cousin Christopher, and a Major Collis all heard the name “Fagan” called from a source they could not determine. Two of them said the voice was like the voice of Captain Clayton. The next morning a telegram arrived saying that Captain Clayton had died on the same day and hour as the voice was heard, from an accident while playing polo.

Page 178, Case #312: Georgiana Polson reported seeing a woman who she thought was “something unnatural” and exclaimed, “Oh, Caroline.” The woman was dressed in black silk “with a muslin 'cloud' over her head and shoulders,” and was seen to glide fast and noiselessly. At the same time, a “little nursery girl” was terrified of going into a room where she saw a similar strange figure, “in black, with white all over her head and shoulders.” Gorgiana later found that Caroline had died on the same day the apparition was seen.

Page 179-180, Case #313: A son was awoken in the middle of the night by a feeling of terror. His mother said that on that night she had seen an "apparition" of Susan appear in her bedroom. After feeling a cold chill, the mother fainted. It was soon found that Susan had died unexpectedly (apparently on the same night).

Page 182, Case #315: A Mr. de Guerin reported that in 1854, he saw something that “appeared like a thin white fog, a misty vapour....after a few moments I plainly distinguished a figure which I recognized as that of my sister Fanny.” He said “the vision seemed to disappear gradually in the same manner as it came.” He later learned that “on the same day my sister died – almost suddenly.” Mr. de Guerin immediately mailed a description of what he had seen to another sister, Mrs. Elmslie, who lived far away; “but before it reached her, I had received a letter from her, giving me an almost similar description of what she had seen the same night, adding 'I am sure dear Fanny is gone.' ” She reported that the apparition disappeared.

Page 227, Case #340: While in England, the mother of W.L heard a mysterious voice which the mother identified as the voice of her son, who was in America. The voice, also heard by her husband, said, “As I cannot come to England, mother, I have come now to see you.” It was later found that the son had died on the same day.

- [scientific literature](#) (2)
- [scientific process](#) (7)
- [scientific speculation](#) (9)
- [scientific theories](#) (5)
- [scientific theory](#) (5)
- [scientist misconduct](#) (1)
- [scientist subculture](#) (1)
- [self](#) (1)
- [self-consciousness](#) (2)
- [sensationalism](#) (1)
- [SETI](#) (16)
- [sex](#) (1)
- [sexism](#) (1)
- [shopping](#) (1)
- [short radio bursts](#) (1)
- [simulated universe](#) (6)
- [Singularity](#) (8)
- [skepticism](#) (9)
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- [social media](#) (1)
- [social security](#) (1)
- [social trends](#) (1)
- [sociology of science](#) (13)
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- [supercomputer](#) (3)
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- [supersymmetry](#) (9)
- [surveillance state](#) (1)
- [synapse theory of memory](#) (7)
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- [technological innovations](#) (1)
- [teleology](#) (4)
- [teleportation](#) (1)
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- [theories of the universe](#) (4)
- [theories of time](#) (3)
- [theories of truth](#) (1)
- [theory of accelerating progress](#) (1)
- [theory of consciousness](#) (8)

Page 235, Case #345: A Mrs. Cox was told by a nephew that he had just seen his father (Mrs. Cox's brother), who was thought to be far away in Hong Kong. Mrs. Cox told the boy this was nonsense, but then saw the same apparition of her brother. She reported that the apparition called her name three times. She soon found out that her brother had died on the same day the apparition was seen.

Page 241-242, Case #349: In 1845 while at college Philip Weld died in a boating accident. The president of the college immediately set out to travel to the father of Philip to deliver the bad news. Arriving the next day, he was surprised to hear the father say that yesterday he and his daughter had recently seen Philip walking between two persons, one wearing a black robe. "Suddenly they all seemed to me to have vanished," said the father. Later, the father saw a portrait that he identified as one of the men who he had seen with the apparition of his son. The portrait was of a saint who had died long ago.

Page 248-249, Case #352: At quarter to 7 on July 11, 1879, Samuel Falkenburg observed his son exclaim "Grandpa!" Samuel looked up toward the ceiling and "saw the face of my father as plainly as I ever saw him in my life." Soon thereafter he found out that his father died on July 11, 1879, at quarter to 7.

Page 259, Case #357: Seeing something strange while in America, John Sherbrooke exclaimed, "God bless my soul, who's that?" Colonel Wynyard said, "That's my brother, John Wynyard, and I am quite certain he is dead." Later "a letter from Mr. Rush, the surgeon, announced the death of John Wynyard at the moment, as near as could be ascertained, when the figure appeared." Two and a half years later John Sherbrooke saw someone who he thought resembled the figure he had seen when the "apparition sighting" occurred. The man turned out to be a man who looked so much like John Wynyard that he had often been mistaken for him.

Page 449-450, Case #485: While in Russia, a man saw an apparition of his fiance who was in England. He saw a kind of bluish vapor that turned into the form of his fiance. The apparition "seemed to melt away into the vapour, which also disappeared." The man then found that his fiance "died of inflammation of the brain, on the same day, and about the same time, as I mentioned having seen the apparition."

Page 451-452, Case #487: When she was a young girl, a woman saw her brother by her bedside, looking wet. When she called his name, the figure vanished. She later learned that her brother had died in India, of drowning in wet quicksand.

Page 452-453, Case #488: While in Gloucester, England a William Garlick saw an apparition of his brother, who was far away heading for the East Indies. The apparition seemed to slowly fade away. William later found that his brother had died, and said "the date and hour of his death, as nearly as could be calculated, coincided exactly

- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
- [third man factor](#) (1)
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- [time travel](#) (3)
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- [weddings](#) (1)
- [white holes](#) (1)
- [wormhole](#) (1)

with that of his appearance to me."

Page 453-454, Case #489: A Mrs. Nind said that she saw next to her bedside the figure of her father-in-law, who spoke a few words and then disappeared. She soon found that her father-in-law had suddenly died about eight hours earlier.

Page 455, Case #491: On the morning of her father's death, a Mrs. Clarke said that she saw at her bedside an apparition of her father, which appeared for five minutes. Her father died in another location.

Page 456, Case #492: A Mrs. George Gordon saw an apparition of her father, who was far away in India. Months later she received word from India that her father had died on the same day.

Page 458, Case #494: H. Atkins reported that while at sea he saw a crew member who said that he saw his mother on the deck. H. Atkins told the man that this was quite impossible. The crew member later learned that his mother had died "that very night."

Page 459, Case #495: In America, George Waddington awoke to find the figure of his great aunt in front of him. "She died early that morning," said George, and the death occurred in England.

Page 460-461, Case #498: Mrs. Chermside said two lovers were parted when the man announced he had to take troops to Canada. One night the woman (E.B.) saw the man in her bedroom, apparently dressed in "grave clothes." She asked why he was dressed that way, and he said, "Do not laugh; this is my new uniform." According to Mrs. Chermside, "A month later she received word that he had died on that very night, and that the last word he uttered was her name."

Page 462, Case #500: On December 18, 1872 a woman saw her husband appear, and "he as suddenly disappeared." She later received a "letter by the Australian mail" that her husband had died on that very day.

Page 473-474, Case #509: A Mrs. Sprauge awoke at about 3 o'clock on June 14, 1868 to find her mother at the foot of her bed. Rising up from the bed, Mrs. Sprauge then found her mother was gone. She later received a telegram saying that her mother had died far away. Upon questioning the nurse, Mrs. Sprauge found that her mother had given her "last sign of life" at the same hour and day as the apparition, dying three days later.

Page 474-475, Case #510: A Samuel Mendicott saw an Archbishop appear at the foot of his bed. He later found that the Archbishop had died at the same hour and day.

Page 475-476, Case #512: A man saw at his bedside a Mr. Mercier, who "showed me the left side of his head, all bloody, and covered with his brains." The figure "ascended, as it were, through the ceiling." A

day or two later the newspaper reported that Mercier had died. Further inquiry showed that he was struck on the left side of the head by a church bell.

Page 486, Case #523: A Mrs. B reported that her father had come down one morning, saying that a certain male, known to be sick, had appeared at his bedside. Later she found out "he had died at the same hour that my father had said he had a visit from him."

Page 694, Case #696: On a Sunday R. Markam Hill reported that a man rushed into the room he was in. Hill reported that the "apparition" disappeared, and that he thought the man was his uncle. The next day a telegram came announcing the death of his uncle on that Sunday.

Page 695-696, Case #697: A man's wife woke her husband to report an intruder in her bedroom at about 1 AM, but the man could not be found. The next work day the man found out that a Mr. Z. had died at about 1 AM, the same time the wife's report was made. When the man said he had some sad news to report to his wife, the wife said she knew it was that Mr. Z had died, for that was the one who she saw in the bedroom.

Page 703, Case #702: A Mr. Griffin reported that he woke up and saw an old lady friend of his, who spoke to him. He later "heard of the old lady's death, at the same date and hour," receiving notification by mail.

So in this post and the two other posts of the same type ([here](#) and [here](#)), I have summarized a total of 75+ different cases of people who experienced an apparition of someone, and then soon found out that such a person died at about the same time, almost always on the same day, and often on the same day and hour. Not one of these cases can be explained by the six explanations that appeared in the Scientific American article, none of which offer any explanation for such synchronicity. That article is Exhibit A showing that scientists have no substantive explanations for apparition sightings reported by ordinary people.

Such cases sometimes occur in recent years. For example, on pages 4-6 of the 2018 book *Already Here* by Leo Galland M.D., Leo tells us that while waiting to hear the fate of his son "three hours away" after an accident, he and his wife saw an apparition of that son. In the same hour of that day, after seeing the apparition, Leo learned that attempts to revive his son had failed.

Click [here](#) to read the last part of this 4-part series.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [8:39 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death

In my earlier [post](#) “25 Who Were 'Ghost-Told' of a Death,” I summarized 25 or more cases of people who experienced an apparition of someone who they did not know was dead, only to soon find out that such a person had died at a matching time (almost always the same day, and very frequently the same hour and day). The cases I cited were mainly nineteenth-century reports presented to the astronomer Camille Flammarion after he had asked for readers to send him any reports they had of “a distinct impression that you saw or heard a human being, or were touched by one, without being able to refer this impression to some known cause.” I also cited a few reports from recent decades collected by Erlendur Haraldsson. I noted at the end of the end of the post that I could no doubt find many more such cases if I searched for similar cases in the classic work on apparitions, “Phantasms of the Living” by Edmund Gurney, Frederic Myers and Frank Podmore.

I have now searched for similar cases in “Phantasms of the Living,” and found that such cases are reported quite abundantly in that work. A significant fraction of the 700+ cases reported in that two-volume work are cases in which someone reports seeing or hearing an apparition of a particular person they did not know was dead, only to find out later that just such a person had died on about the same day or exactly the same day (and often on the same hour and day). I found more than 75 such cases in “Phantasms of the Living,” which will require several different blog posts to summarize (including this one and two others).

Below are some cases from Volume 1 of “Phantasms of the Living.” By following the links, you can go to the exact page of each case I have given. The very diligent writers of the book checked out almost all of these cases, getting corroborating evidence. So, for example, if a husband reported seeing a particular thing, a wife might be asked to produce an account of what the husband said at the time. And if someone reported a death occurring at a particular day, public records were checked to see whether such a person's death occurred on that day.

Case #25, page 204: According to her later account, on January 3, 1856 a mother “looked round the room, and to my utter amazement, saw Joseph standing at the door...his head bandaged up.” Joseph, her son, died far away on the same day in a shipping accident that split upon his head.

Case #26, page 207: At 2 AM a man saw someone coming into his room, and the man identified the person as Robinson Kelsey. When the man called out, the figure disappeared. Upon making inquiries, the man later learned that Robinson Kelsey had died on the same hour. Although not explicitly stated, the narrative implies that Kelsey had died on both the same day and

the same hour.

Case #27, page 209: In December 1881 an R. Rawlinson suddenly had a strange feeling that someone else was in his room. He found that instantaneously “every feature of the face and form of my old friend, X., arose” in his mind. Convinced that the old friend had died, Rawlinson soon found that his old friend had indeed died at the same time Rawlinson had this experience.

Case #28, page 210: On March 24, 1883 an N.J.S. saw his friend F.L. stand before him, and the figure “passed away” (the meaning of this phrase in the narrative is unclear). N.J.S. reported feeling an icy chill, and noted the time as 12 minutes to 9. N.J.S. felt sure F.L. was dead. The next day N.J.S. found out that F.L. was found dead of a ruptured aorta, at 9:00, at about the same time N.J.S. had seen the strange sight.

Case #197, page 531: While writing a letter, an I.B. in Switzerland saw appear before him a man he met in America, one he knew as Mountain Jim. After recording the hour and date of the strange appearance, I. B. later found that Mountain Jim had died on the same day.

Case #199, page 534: At five o'clock in the morning on Saturday a man was woke up a noise, and saw a lady friend of his “glide” across the room. He found out later in the week that the woman had committed suicide at five in the morning on Saturday.

Case #203, page 548: Isabel Allom saw an apparition of her mother. She said “the figure moved across the room, ascending as it went until it disappeared.” She afterwards learned that her mother died on the same day and hour.

Case #204, page 549: An E.C. reported that “I saw a figure of a friend pass before me, ascending” and that later “I received a letter that she had died that night.”

Case #205, page 549-550: A Lady Chatterton said that she was sure Father Hewitt was dead, because she had seen him “high above me in the air.” The next morning she learned that he died at the same time she saw this apparition.

Case #206, page 551-552: An R. Waller Jones said that he saw a vision of his sister in a coffin. He later learned that his sister had died on the same day this vision occurred.

Case #207, page 552: An M. A. Larcombe said she saw angels, and in front of them her friend Anne Cox. She later found that Anne Cox had died on the same day.

Case #210, page 556-557: In 1855 A G.F. Russell Colt said that he woke up to see his brother kneeling, “surrounded by a

light sort of phosphorescent mist.” He said the apparition had a wound on its right temple. He soon learned that his brother had died in a military action far away, with the wound or death on the same day as the apparition was seen, and that “the death wound was exactly where I had seen it.”

Case #212, page 560: A Dr. Rowland Bowstead reported that in 1847 at 10 minutes to 1, he saw “the apparition of my half-brother” dressed in a “shooting suit” with a gun on his arm. He found out a few days later that the half-brother had died of a burst blood vessel, on the same day, at 10 minutes to 1, while dressed in a “shooting suit” with a gun on his arm.



Artistic depiction of a ghost

Below are some cases from Volume 2 of “Phantasms of the Living.” I will include the case numbers given in the book.

Case #228, page 44: In 1873 Frederick Barker told his wife that he had seen his aunt who lived elsewhere, and that she had disappeared. He found out a week later that the aunt had died on the same day Barker saw the apparition, and that she was calling out for Barker at the time of her death.

Case #229, page 45: Lieutenant General Albert Fytche stated “I saw a ghost with my own eyes in broad daylight.” He said he saw an old schoolmate in his house, who after a while could no longer be found. Two weeks later he was informed that the schoolmate had died 600 miles away, on the same day Fytche had seen the apparition.

Case #230, page 46: Looking into a theater pit in Canada, J. Evans saw his brother “lighted up supernaturally.” After looking down into the pit, he couldn't find his brother. He later found out his brother had died in Shanghai on the same day J. Evans saw the strange sight in the theater pit.

Case #231, page 47-48: Stuart Stephens said that he saw Rudolph Gough: “I saw standing the man who I had been told was dying on the other side of the Tugela.” Later he “found that

he had died at exactly the hour I fancied I had seen him.”

Case #235, page 51: S.C. Swiney said that he was surprised to see his brother, who he thought was in India. He said “before I could recover from my astonishment, the figure had disappeared.” He later found his brother had died “about...the time I had imagined I had seen him,” on the same day.

Case #237, page 54: In 1874 Ellen M. Greany saw a school-friend of hers, only to find a moment later there was no one visible except her mother. A day or so later she found the friend had died. She said “she died the same evening and about the same time as I saw her vision.”

Case #240, page 59: Mary Ellis twice during a day “saw the face” of an old friend. She later learned that he died on that same day, five miles away.

Case #243, page 63-65: After being struck by a sudden feeling of sadness, Sebastiano Fenzi saw his brother on the sea coast, walking about outside on a day of terrible weather. After watching him pass behind a rock, the brother could no longer be seen. He later found “my brother had died just at the time when in the morning I had seen him on the rocks,” with the death occurring 70 miles away.

Case #253, page 76: An S.H.S relates this account which will be of interest to anyone who enjoys [photographs of mysterious orbs](#):

"About the year 1841, I was in a room with my father in our house in the Isle of Wight when he exclaimed, 'Good God, what is that?' starting up as he spoke, and apparently looking at something. He then turned to me and said that he had seen a ball of light pass through the room, and added, 'Depend upon it, Nurse Simmons is dead.' This was an old servant in London, to whom he had been sending money, in illness. In course of post came information that she passed away at the very time in question."

Case #272, page 107: Lister Ives reported hearing agonized cries from his son, even though the boy was believed to be three miles away. The boy “was killed at that very time by a fall from the rocks.”

Case #273, page 108: While on a ship, G.A. Witt reported hearing the voice of his brother calling G. by his name. He later found out that his brother had died elsewhere on the same day.

Case #279, page 114: Sarah Wight reported the following:

“On five occasions in my life I have heard my Christian name uttered in a peremptory manner; as if some one was in need of my aid; and after each occasion I have learnt that a relation

had died at a time closely corresponding to the call. I have never on any other occasion had any sort of hallucination of the senses whatsoever."

Case#298, page 143: Marian Hughes reported a man had proposed to her sister, but her sister had rejected the man, who then got a job in India. In London her sister heard her name called, and looked up to see what she thought was the face of the man who had wanted to marry her, but "finding no one there became convinced she had seen an apparition announcing the death of her friend." The sister later learned that the man had died far away "on the evening of the day she had seen the apparition in London."

Case# 534, page 495: Arthur Bedford reported that all of his dormitory was roused by a cry of a student declaring that his father had appeared at his bedside, dripping wet, wearing a "pea coat" and high boots. It was later found that the father had died at sea, dressed like the apparition, at about the same time as the apparition.

The witnesses listed above almost all asserted or answered that the described incident was the only case they had seen anything like a hallucination or an apparition (a question routinely asked by the very thorough investigators).

I have now presented (in this post and a previous [post](#)) a total of 50 cases of someone experiencing an apparition of someone who they did not know was dead, only to find out later the person died on about the same day (usually exactly the same day, and often on the same hour and day). I will list 50 more such cases in later posts. To discuss the mathematical probability of such a thing happening by coincidence will require a separate post. I can give a preview by mentioning that we should not expect more than about 1 in 100 million ordinary people to coincidentally experience an apparition of someone who they later found died on the same day; and we should not expect more than about 1 in a billion ordinary people to coincidentally experience an apparition of someone who they later found died on the same day and also the same hour. The existence of so many accounts of this type is therefore *prima facie* evidence that something much more than hallucination is going on.

To read about 25 more such cases, click [here](#) to read the third part of this 4-part series.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [8:49 AM](#)

1 comment:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Thursday, February 7, 2019

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

Camille Flammarion was one of the most well-known astronomers of his age. An 1894 magazine [profile](#) called him someone “who has done more toward popularizing the study of astronomical science than any of his contemporaries.” Flammarion's 1900 book “The Unknown” (which you can read [here](#)) is a neglected classic of parapsychology. In Chapter 3 of the book, Flammarion presents 180 cases of people who reported hard-to-explain occurrences, usually at the time of someone's death. The very long chapter is entitled, “Of Telepathic Communications Made by the Dying, and of Apparitions.”

Almost all of the cases reported by Flammarion are cases presented for the first time in his book, because they were reported in writing to the astronomer. Part of the reason he got so many accounts is that he put out a public notice in a magazine asking to be sent accounts of unusual experiences involving apparitions. We can only imagine what a flood of such accounts would come to today's scientists if they were to ask the public to receive them.

Flammarion asked the magazine readers to send him a postcard or letter answering “Yes” or “No” to two questions, and to include an account if the answer to either was “Yes.” The first question was “Has it ever happened to you at anytime to experience, being awake, a distinct impression that you saw or heard a human being, or were touched by one, without being able to refer this impression to some known cause?” The second question was, “Did this impression coincide with the date of any death?” On page 69 Flammarion tells us that he received 4280 answers, 2456 of which answered “No,” and 1824 answered “Yes.”

I will apply a quality filter when choosing which of these accounts to summarize. I will only summarize a fraction of the accounts reported in the first person by a person who either directly experienced something that seemed inexplicable or was very nearby someone who experienced something that seemed inexplicable at the time the experience occurred, rather than mentioning second-hand accounts in which someone said that a friend or relative told him about something that happened a long time ago.

We will see two astonishing characteristics in many of these reports:

- (1) It will very often be reported that the apparition of someone appeared on the same day or the same hour and day that such a person died.
- (2) It will very often be reported that the apparition was effectively a notification that some particular person had died, with a confirmation soon thereafter (through word, mail or

telegram) that exactly that person did die.

Page 51-52, Case III: Not long after 1896 a distinguished musician named Andre Bloch reported to Flammarion that in 1896 his mother came to him in a state of great excitement, and said that she had suddenly seen her nephew Rene, who stated, "Yes, indeed, I am quite dead." Later, after finishing a trip, Andre and his mother found out that the young Rene had died at the age of only 14, at the same hour and day as the apparition was seen.

Page 53, Case IV: In 1889 M. V. de Kerkhove reported to Flammarion that in 1876 while in Texas he saw an apparition of his grandfather. He found out weeks later that his grandfather had died in Belgium on the same day and hour that the sighting occurred.

Page 59, Case IX: Madame Ulric de Fonvielle reported to Flammarion in 1899 that she had seen at the foot of her bed one of her childhood friends, who said, "I am going away now," and asked, "Can you forgive me?" The vision suddenly disappeared. The next morning word came by telegram that the friend had died the previous evening, during the same hour the apparition was seen.

Page 60, Case X: In 1899 Baron Deslandes reported to Flammarion that he had seen a servant suddenly state that he had seen an apparition of his mother. Days later word came word that the servant's mother had died at the exact day and hour of the apparition.

Page 62, Case XIII: M. Binet reported to Flammarion that she had seen the apparition of a young girl named Leontine, causing her to cry out, "Leontine." She said it was a shadowy, luminous form. She later found out that the child Leontine had died on the same day and hour as the apparition appeared.

Page 72, Case XIX: Angele Esperon reported to Flammarion that at half past three in the morning, she had seen "a most distinct vision of the apparition of my brother Joseph," who was in the military service far away. He said, "Goodbye, Angele, I am dead." That day she received a dispatch that her brother had died far away, at three in the morning. (It is not clear from the narrative whether it was the same day.)

Page 81, Case XXXII: M. Mine reported to Flammarion that on the day in 1887 his grandmother died at about 6:00 AM, his father went to his school to report that the young pupil (M. Mine) would not attend that day because of the grandmother's death. But, mysteriously, the school had already been told of the grandmother's death. After inquiries, one of M. Mine's schoolmates said that he had seen that morning an apparition of his dead sister and M. Mine's grandmother holding hands,

and had then reported to the school that the grandmother had died.

Page 100, Case LXV: A. Nyffeley-Potter awoke to see a vision of his brother being pierced by a spear. Some weeks later he received news that his brother traveling far away had died after being pierced by a spear.

Page 101, Case LXVIII: Aug. Glardon reported this:

It has twice in my life happened to me to experience a distinct impression to have near me a person who was absent, and to mark the exact hour at which this occurred. Both times the impression received was found to coincide within five minutes with the death of a person whom I knew to be ill, but who I had no idea was so near his end.

Page 104, Case LXXV: A. Deupes reported that in bed his wife reported a man calling her name. She predicted that it would soon be reported that M. Gantier of Marseilles had died, because she recognized his voice as the one calling her. Word soon came by mail that exactly that person had died, at a date and hour matching the strange voice.

Page 129-130, Case CXX: Juliette Thevenet reported that at one o'clock in the morning a picture of her father seemed to make a sudden move. She then found out that her father had died that day, at one o'clock in the morning.

Page 135, Case CXXVIII: A Jacques C. had a true love named Martha, who he had been unable to marry, and who lived in another city. He reported Martha entering his room. When he tried to grasp her hand "the phantom disappeared." He later found that Martha had died at the exact hour he had seen her apparition, and that she had called out his name on her deathbed.

Page 136-137, Case CXXIX: Valentine C. looked at the photograph of his friend Helene, and was astonished that it looked as if the face was animated, as if it was about to speak. The clock struck eight. He found out later that day out that Helene had died at the same hour.

Page 140, Case CXXXII: H. Poncer reported that in 1884 this happened:

As I got out of bed I saw a figure standing upright, surrounded by a circle of light. I gazed at it, a good deal moved as you may imagine, and I recognized my husband's brother-in-law, a doctor, who said : 'Warn Adolphe— tell him I am dead.'

The next day a telegram confirmed that the brother-in-law had died unexpectedly from cholera.

I had been asleep some hours when I was awakened (my father, my mother, and my four sisters, too) by a very loud voice calling my father, Florian. A second call was not so loud, and a third was almost a whisper. My father said, ' It is the voice of Renaud ' (a friend of his living in Paris), and, rising, he went to open the front door. But no one was there. The newly fallen snow showed no trace of any footsteps. A short time after my father received a letter telling him that his friend Renaud had been run over by an omnibus, and that, as he was dying, he had several times pronounced his name.

Page 154, Case CLV: A. Michel reported that he felt a very strong slap to his face when no one was near him. The slap created a hand-like mark that lasted for six months. At the same time that the strange slap occurred, his grandmother died.

Page 156, Case CLVII: Countess Amelie Garandine reported this story:

"My sister, who was seventeen, passing along the corridor, saw under a lighted gas-burner a tall and handsome girl whom she did not know, dressed like a peasant woman. The apparition alarmed her, and she began to scream. The next morning our cook, a girl twenty-five years old, told my mother that about nine o'clock the night before, as she was going to bed, she saw before her one of her friends, a young peasant girl, whose description exactly corresponded to that of the apparition that my sister had seen. They afterwards learned that this girl had died that same day."

Page 157, Case CLIX: Madame Adam stated the following very spooky account:

"As I opened my eyes I saw my grandmother at the foot of my bed, and I cried out, 'What a pleasure, grand-mother, to see you!' She did not answer, but raised her hand to her eyes. Then I saw her eyes were gone, leaving two empty holes. I sprang out of bed and ran towards her. As I was about to clasp her in my arms she disappeared. My grand mother had died that very day at eight o'clock in the evening."

Page 168-169, Case CLXXI: A Mrs. Isabelle Allom reported that while she was attending school in France, she saw an apparition of her mother. She later found out that her mother had died on the same day and hour that the apparition was seen.

Page 169-170, Case CLXXII: Captain G.F. Russell Colt reported that on the night of his brother's death at a very distant location, he saw an apparition of his brother "surrounded by a sort of phosphorescent mist." He reported that he walked right

through the apparition. Later he learned that his brother had died with a wound similar to the wound observed in the apparition.

Page 171, Case CLXXIII: In 1867 while listening to an orchestra concert, a woman named E.T. Taunton saw a vision of her uncle. She later learned her uncle had died at the same time as the vision occurred.

Page 172, Case CLXXIV: Frederick Barker reported that he saw an apparition of his aunt, one that disappeared. He later found out that his aunt had died on the same day and at about the same hour.

Page 175-177, Case CLXXVII: H.B. Garling saw a "phantom," and exclaimed, "It is Harrison." She said, "The specter disappeared." Soon after this she learned that Harrison and his whole family had died of cholera.

Page 178, Case CLXXVIII: Minnie Cox reported seeing in 1869 an apparition of her brother, who was far away in Hong Kong. This occurred an hour after the brother's son had reported seeing his father. The next mail which came from China informed her of her brother's death, which had happened on the same day Minnie had seen the apparition. Here we have a case of the same apparition seen by more than one person (see below for a mention of 21 such cases).

Page 179, Case CLXXVIX: Eugenia Wickham reported that in 1886 at three o'clock she and her eldest son had seen seeing an apparition of a "Mr. B." floating about a half a foot above the ground. About 30 minutes later, someone came to report that Mr. B. had died at about three o'clock.

On page 187 Flammarion discusses some reasons why the accounts he has presented cannot be dismissed as hallucinations. He states:

"If cases of this kind had been hallucinations, illusions, freaks of the imagination, there would have been a much larger number of them reported that had no coincidence with a death than with such a coincidence. Now it is just the contrary....I requested people to be so obliging as to furnish me with all kinds of cases, whether there was any coincidence with death or not. There are not more than seven or eight percent of cases of apparitions without such coincidence. The opposite thing would have occurred had we been dealing with hallucinations."

He is correct, because the first question he asked the public to respond to was: "Has it ever happened to you at anytime to experience, being awake, a distinct impression that you saw or

heard a human being, or were touched by one, without being able to refer this impression to some known cause?" The second question was, "Did this impression coincide with the date of any death?"

Flammarion was not the first to publish accounts like the ones cited above. In the long [report](#) of the the London Dialectical Society reporting on its investigation of the paranormal, which makes fascinating reading as a whole, we find on page 160-161 the following eyewitness account of a transparent apparition by Cromwell Varley:

"One night in my room there were a great number of loud raps. When at length I sat up in bed, I saw a man in the air -- a spirit -- in military dress. I could see the pattern of the paper on the wall through him...The spirit informed me that when at school in France he was stabbed. This fact was known only to his eldest surviving brother and his mother. It had been concealed from his father on account of the state of the latter's health. When I narrated this to the survivor, he turned very pale, and confirmed it."

There is no reason to think that sightings of apparitions is merely a "way back when" type of thing. In 1975 the little-known writer Celia Green was able to get 1500 recent first-hand accounts of apparitions, and published 400 of them in a [book](#). In the same year Erlendur Haraldsson asked 902 people in Iceland, "Have you ever perceived or felt the nearness of a deceased person?" 31% reported "yes." The next year a survey of 1467 people in the US asked, "Have you ever felt that you were really in touch with someone who had died?" 27% answered "Yes." Below is a quote from the abstract of a [paper](#) entitled "Alleged Encounters With the Dead: The Importance Of Violent Death In 337 New Cases" by Haraldsson:

"Personal encounters with the dead are reported by 25% of Western Europeans and 30% of Americans. Three hundred thirty-seven Icelanders reporting such experiences were interviewed at length. Ninety percent of them reported sensory experiences (apparitions) of a deceased person; 69% were visual, 28% auditory, 13% tactile, and 4% olfactory. Fewer than half of the experiences occurred in twilight or darkness. In half of the cases the experiencer was actively engaged or working. Disproportionately prominent were apparitions of those who died violently and crisis apparitions observed close to the time of death of the person who was perceived, although in the majority of cases, the percipient did not know that the person had died."

It is interesting that he notes a prominence of people seeing an apparition at the time of someone's death, before they even knew the person was dead. This is similar to what we have seen

so often in Flammarion's cases cited above. The term "veridical near-death experiences" is used for cases in which someone observes or learns something during a near-death experience that is subsequently confirmed (such as details of his medical resuscitation efforts). Many examples can be read [here](#). We can use the term "veridical apparitions" for these cases in which someone effectively learns in a seemingly paranormal way of a death he was not aware of.



Below is an example of such a veridical apparition, an eyewitness account from page 20 of Haraldsson's paper:

"A little later I see him again and close to me, and think again this cannot be and I must be hallucinating and try to shake it off. I felt a strange feeling going through my body and I look behind and see his face. Then I felt sure he must have died. I went home and told them. They said of course that I was talking nonsense. The next morning there came a telegram announcing his death. We did not have a telephone."

Below is another example, an eyewitness account from page 11 of Haraldsson's paper:

"I was having a pleasant trip, stayed at Blanda for two nights, or rather was going to. I was not in any hurry. All of a sudden I sensed my grandfather right there with me. I instantly knew that he had passed away, went to the post office and called. It was confirmed that he had died the day before."

Below is another example, an an eyewitness account from page 13 of Haraldsson's paper:

"Suddenly I see the bedroom door opened and on the threshold

stands Jacob, with his face all covered with blood. I look at this for a good while unable to speak or move. Then he disappears and I felt as if he closed the door behind him. I became my normal self, call my husband and tell him about the incident: "I can swear that something has happened at the sanatorium." I telephone in the morning and ask about if everything is not alright with Jacob. 'No,' said the nurse, 'he committed suicide this night.' "

Below is another example, an an eyewitness account from page 18 of Haraldsson's paper:

"When I had been shovelling for a while, I suddenly felt Karl Kristjánsson standing in front of me in one of the stalls in the stable and he says something rather peculiar: "You were lucky, you did fine," and that was all; then he disappeared. That evening his death was announced on the radio. While pondering about the incident and trying to figure it out, I learnt that he had suffered a heart attack and been brought to the Reykjavik City Hospital where he died. I had been admitted to that hospital a year earlier after suffering a similar attack. I luckily recuperated and could go home, whereas he died."

On page 19 of the Haraldsson paper we are told that in many of the cases it was reported that an apparition was seen by more than one person at the same time. Haraldsson tried to interview the people who had seen the apparition at the same time as someone else. He reports on page 19, "In 21 instances out of the 30, the witnesses verified the respondent's description of the case." Such a result is quite inconsistent with the hallucination theory of apparitions, for under such a theory no more than one person at a time should see an apparition.

I have not even mentioned here any cases from the massive two-volume [work](#) "Phantasms of the Living," which would probably have in its 1000+ pages quite a few other additional cases of veridical apparitions. Quite a few additional cases not discussed in this post can be found in [this](#) paper. I therefore think it will be easy to one day write a sequel to this post, one with the title "25 More Who Were Ghost-Told of a Death."

Postscript: Such a sequel post is now available [here](#). In fact, I have written three different sequel posts describing 75 more cases of someone learning of another person's death through something like an apparition sighting. The three posts are below:

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very_Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [10:14 AM](#)

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Sunday, March 29, 2020

Deathbed Visions: The Earliest Accounts (Part 1)

At the web site of the Daily Mail, we recently had a very sad-sounding [story](#) with the headline, "They All Suffer and Die Alone." The story is an interview with an ICU doctor Daniela Lamas. Currenly hospitalized victims of the coronavirus are not allowed visitors, to minimize the chance that such visitors become infected with the coronavirus. "The devastating image of the lonely deaths of coronavirus patients in Italy hangs over us all," Dr. Lamas states.

But is it actually true that those dying of coronavirus in hospitals have almost all died lonely, isolated deaths? There is a strong reason for suspecting that such a thing may not be true. The reason is related to the little-publicized phenomenon of deathbed visions, in which dying people see apparitions of deceased family members and deceased friends.

Deathbed visions are a different phenomenon from near-death experiences. Near-death experiences are accounts of extraordinary experiences of those who had close brushes with death, but who recovered to tell the story of their remarkable experiences, often in writing. Deathbed visions are extraordinary accounts (purely oral) told by those who came very close to dying, and then actually did die. The great interest in near-death experiences has caused the different phenomenon of deathbed visions to be overshadowed and overlooked.

The first major reference to this phenomenon that I can find in the literature of parapsychology is the fascinating 1906 paper "Apparitions of Deceased Persons at Death-Beds" in pages 67-100 of the February 1906 *Annals of Psychical Research*, (Volume 3), which can be read [here](#). I will now cite several cases from this paper by Ernesto Bozzano.

The first case cited ([pages 70-71](#)) is an account told by a well-known figure of the death of his son:

"Suddenly he murmured: 'Earth recedes, heaven opens up

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before me. I have been beyond the gates. God is calling. Don't call me back. It is beautiful. It is like a trance. If this is death it is sweet.' Then his face lit up and he said in a voice of joyful rapture : 'Dwight! Irene! I see the children's faces' (referring to two little grandchildren, gone before). Turning to his wife he said: 'Mamma, you have been a good wife to me,' and with that he became unconscious."

We will see that this seeing of a deceased relative is the most common feature of a deathbed vision. On [page 71](#) this feature occurs again in this account:

"For half an hour, he said, the dying man had been sinking. The breathing, growing more laboured, became slower and fainter. The watcher thought the man was dead, when suddenly his eyes opened with a glad look of wonder and joyful recognition; he threw up his arms as in an embrace, and his whole face was illuminated as he rapturously exclaimed: 'Why, mother!' The same instant he fell back dead. 'Nothing will ever convince me,' said the watcher, relating the occurrence years afterwards, 'that that man didn't actually see his mother then and there.' "

On [page 72](#) we have this account by an Alfred Smedley of the death of his wife:

"A short time before her decease, her eyes being fixed on something that seemed to fill her with pleasant surprise, she exclaimed: 'Why ! there is sister Charlotte here ; and mother and father, and brother John, and sister Mary ! And now they have brought Bessie Heap !! They are all here. Oh! how beautiful! Cannot you see them ? ' she asked. 'No, my dear; I very much wish I could,' I answered. ' Cannot you see them ? ' she again asked in surprise : ' why they are all here, and they are come to bear me away with them. Part of our family have crossed the flood, and soon the other part will be gathered home, and then we shall be a family complete in heaven.' "

On [page 72](#) we have this account by a Dr. Paul Edwards of the death of a patient, who said this:

"I see people moving-all in white. The music is strangely enchanting. Oh! here is Sadie; she is with me-and-she knows who I am."

We are told that Sadie "was a little girl she had lost about ten years before," and that "the dying wife was in full view of the two worlds at the same time, for she described how the moving figures looked in the world beyond, as she directed her words to mortals in this world." On [page 73](#) we read the account of a Dr. Wilson who observed the death of a singer named James Moore:

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"Then something which I shall never forget to my dying day happened; something which is utterly indescribable. While he appeared perfectly rational and as sane as any man I have ever seen, the only way that I can express it is that he was transported into another world, and although I cannot satisfactorily explain the matter to myself, I am fully convinced that he had entered the Golden City - for he said in a stronger voice than he had used since I had attended him: 'There is mother! Why, mother, have you come here to see me? No, no, I'm coming to see you. Just wait, mother, I am almost over. I can jump it. Wait, mother.' On his face there was a look of inexpressible happiness, and the way in which he said the words impressed me as I have never been before, and I am as firmly convinced that he saw and talked with his mother as I am that I am sitting here."

On [page 78](#) we have this account of the death of Lloyd Ellis:

"Lying in an apparent sleep one night (one Monday night, I believe) he woke up suddenly and asked his mother: 'Where is my father?' She answered him tearfully: 'Lloyd dear, you know your dear father is dead. He has been dead for more than a year now.' 'Is he?' - he asked, incredulously - 'why he was in the room just now, and I have an appointment with him, three o'clock next Wednesday.' And Lloyd Ellis died at three o'clock on the following Wednesday morning."

On [page 79](#) we have this account of the death of a brother, who had not been told that his brother had recently died (the account is quoted from [page 459](#) of Volume 5 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research):

"Harry died at Abbot's Langley on November 2nd, fourteen miles from my vicarage at Aspley; David the following day at Aspley. About an hour before the death of this latter child, he sat up in bed, and pointing to the bottom of the bed, said distinctly: 'There is little Harry calling to me.' .. Mr. Taylor adds the following details: 'Mr. Z. tells me that care was taken to keep David from knowing that Harry was dead, and that he feels sure that David did not know it.'"

On [page 79](#) we have this account quoted from [page 460](#) of Volume 5 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research:

"My brother, John Aikin Ogle, died at Leeds, July 17th, 1879. About an hour before he expired he saw his brother, who had died about sixteen years before, and looking up with fixed interest, said: 'Joe! Joe!' and immediately after exclaimed with ardent surprise: 'George Hanley!' My mother, who had come from Melbourne, a distance of about forty miles, where

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George Hanley resided, was astonished at this, and turning to my sister-in-law, asked if anybody had told John of George Hanley's death. She said, 'No one,' and my mother was the only person present who was aware of the fact."

On [pages 79-80](#) we have the following account:

"In a city not far from Boston, a little girl 9 years of age was dying....Then, as she began to sink, she called out that she saw the faces of friends one after another; grandpa and grandma appeared ; and then, starting with sudden surprise, she turned to her father and said : 'Why, papa, why did you not tell me that Jenny had gone? Here is Jenny, come to meet me.' She had had no idea that there was anything the matter with Jenny; but as a matter of fact she had died only a little while before. They had scrupulously kept this fact from the little girl for fear that the knowledge of it might have a depressing effect upon her."



A deathbed vision might be like this

On page 81 we have an account that is taken from [page 92](#) of Volume 3 of the Proceedings of the Society of Psychical Research:

"Six or seven years passed away, and Mrs.--, who had been long ill, was dying, in fact she did die the following day....She changed the subject and said : "Do you hear those voices singing?' I replied that I did not; and she said : ' I have beard them several times to-day, and I am sure they are the angels welcoming me to Heaven; but '-she added-' it is strange, there is one voice amongst them I am sure I know, and cannot remember whose voice is is.' Suddenly she stopped, and said, pointing straight over my bead : 'Why there she is; in the corner of the room; it is Julia X.; she is coming on ; she is leaning over you'.... I turned but could see nothing....Two days afterwards, taking up the Times newspaper, I saw recorded the death of Julia Z., wife of Mr. Z. I was so astounded that a day or so after the funeral I went up to ---- and asked Mr. X. if Mrs. Z, his daughter, was dead. He said: ' Yes, poor thing, she died of puerperal fever. On the day she died she began singing in the morning, and sang and sang until she died. ' "

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Another source of early accounts of deathbed visions is the 1926 book *Death-bed Visions* by Sir William Barrett. On [page 11](#) of the book we have an account of a Mrs. B. who became gravely ill after childbirth. When near death she complained that the room was getting darker and darker. She then suddenly stated that she saw "lovely brightness -- wonderful beings," and her father. Her newborn child was brought in to her, but she seemed to have more interest in the visions than in seeing her newborn child. She then died an hour later. On [page 13](#) we are told this about something said by this Mrs. B:

"Mrs. B. said, 'Oh, why there's Vida,' referring to a sister of whose death three weeks previously she had not been told. Afterwards the mother, who was present at the time, told me, as I have said, that Vida was the name of a dead sister of Mrs. B.'s, of whose illness and death she was quite ignorant, as they had carefully kept this news from Mrs. B. owing to her serious illness."

On [pages 22-23](#) of the book, we read the following about an M. Paul Durocq who died of yellow fever in 1894:

"Just before his death, and while surrounded by all his family, he had a prolonged delirium, during which he called out the names of certain friends left in France, and whom he seemed to see. 'Well, well, you too—, and you- , you as well!' Although struck by this incident, nobody attached any extraordinary importance to these words at the time they were uttered, but they acquired later on exceptional importance when the family found, on their return to Paris, the funeral invitation cards of the persons named by my uncle before his death, and who had died before him."

On [pages 24-25](#) of the book we read this account by an H. Wedgewood:

"A young girl, a near connexion of mine, was dying of consumption. She had lain for some days in a prostrate condition taking no notice of anything, when she opened her eyes, and looking upwards, said slowly, 'Susan—and Jane—and Ellen' as if recognizing the presence of her three sisters, who had previously died of the same disease. Then after a short pause she continued, 'and Edward too !'— naming a brother then supposed to be alive and well in India—as if surprised at seeing him in the company. She said no more, and sank shortly afterwards. In the course of the post, letters came from India announcing the death of Edward, from an accident a week or two previous to the death of his sister."

On [page 26](#) of the same book we read this account by Dr. E. H. Plumtre:

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- [alien visitation](#) (1)
- [alternate universe](#) (1)
- [android](#) (1)
- [anecdotal evidence](#) (2)
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"The mother of one of the foremost thinkers and theologians of our time was lying on her death-bed in the April of 1854. She had been for some days in a state of almost complete unconsciousness. A short time before her death, the words came from her lips, 'There they are, all of them—William and Elizabeth, and Emma and Anne'; then, after a pause, 'and Priscilla too.' William was a son who had died in infancy, and whose name had never for years passed the mother's lips. Priscilla had died two days before, but her death, though known to the family, had not been reported to her."

On [page 29](#) we have this account by a Mrs. Snell:

"I recall the death of a woman (Mrs. Brown, aged 36) who was the victim of that most dreadful disease, malignant cancer. Her sufferings were excruciating, and she prayed earnestly that death might speedily come to her and end her agony. Suddenly her sufferings appeared to cease ; the expression of her face, which a moment before had been distorted by pain, changed to one of radiant joy. Gazing upwards, with a glad light in her eyes, she raised her hands and exclaimed, ' Oh, mother dear, you have come to take me home. I am so glad ! ' And in another moment her physical life had ceased."

An A. R. Besacon tells this account on [page 31](#), which is a paranormal "twofer" involving both a deathbed vision of a deceased Marie and also apparently an apparition sighting of the very person who had this deathbed vision:

"My mother was attended by my grandmother during her illness. One night the latter was surprised at hearing my mother, who was sleeping in the next room, pronounce certain sentences, among others this :—" Marie, I can see you at last, I am glad you have come. Help me.' (Marie was my sister who died a few years before this.) Grandmother thought it was a dream ; she rose and approached my mother's bed, and to her great surprise she found her in a perfectly normal state. My mother even told her the satisfaction she had had in seeing her daughter. Later on in the night the 'conversation' was resumed, but we paid no further attention. But on the next morning, Mother was no more. Moreover, during the same night, one of my aunts who lived in the neighbouring village of V----, had the clear impression of seeing mother. 'She passed,' she said to me the following day, 'beside my bed without speaking, then went to embrace my two daughters and disappeared.' "

On [page 32](#) we read this account of the death of a four-year-old boy after the death of his siblings Fred and Annie several weeks earlier:

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- [cosmic message](#) (1)
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- [drones](#) (1)
- [dwarf galaxies](#) (1)

"On the night when he died the father came to his bedside with the customary medicine, when the little boy, sitting upright in bed, cried out : ' There's Fred and Annie.' ' Where, my boy ?' asked the father. ' Don't you see them there—there ? ' said the lad, pointing to the wall, ' they're waiting for me to go to them,' and the next minute the little sufferer fell back on the pillow dead."

Typically, as in the previous case, a deathbed vision is seen only by the dying person. But on [page 34](#) we have an account of a daughter who saw in her last days a vision of her father. She asked her mother whether she saw the same thing, and the mother also saw a mysterious white form. On [page 37](#) we have an account of a child who in her dying days kept seeing visions of an aunt of hers who had previously died. She kept saying, "My aunt has come to fetch me; she is holding out her arms to me."

On [page 38](#) we have this story told by a mother who lost two sons within two months, with the second one seeing visions of the first son who had previously died:

"In 1883 I was the mother of two strong, healthy boys. The eldest was a bright boy of two years and seven months. The other a darling baby boy of eight months. August 6th, 1883, my baby died. Ray, my little son, was then in perfect health. Every day after baby's death (and I may safely say every hour in the day) he would say to me, ' Mamma, baby calls Ray.' He would often leave his play and come running to me, saying, ' Mamma, baby calls Ray all the time.' Every night he would waken me out of my sleep and say, ' Mamma, baby calls Ray all the time. He wants Ray to come where he is ; you must not cry when Ray goes, Mamma ; you must not cry, for baby wants Ray.' ...Ray soon became very sick. Nursing and medicine were of no avail. He died Oct. 13th, 1883, two months and seven days after baby's death."

Contrary to the impression sometimes given in movies, the overwhelming majority of hallucinations of psychotic people are auditory, not visual. But the visions discussed here were all visual. And they were generally from people with no history of psychosis or hallucinations. Several of the accounts I have given include details suggesting that something is going on far more than hallucinations, such as the several cases I have quoted where someone sees an apparition of a person he did not know was dead.

There are many other fascinating accounts in the Barrett book that I discuss in [Part 2](#) of this post, which will be as long as this one. I will also discuss how the phenomenon of deathbed visions has been well-confirmed by [large-scale research](#) done decades after these early twentieth century accounts, research

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- [early habitability epoch](#) (1)
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- [extrasolar planets](#) (7)
- [extraterrestrial life](#) (42)
- [extraterrestrials](#) (31)
- [faint young sun paradox](#) (2)
- [fast radio bursts](#) (1)
- [fate of the universe](#) (1)
- [Fermi's paradox](#) (7)
- [fine-tuned universe](#) (7)
- [Flynn effect](#) (1)
- [forecasting](#) (1)
- [Fourth Dimension](#) (1)
- [free will](#) (3)
- [fundamental constants](#) (5)
- [fundamental forces](#) (4)
- [funerals](#) (1)
- [future contrasts](#) (2)
- [future entertainment](#) (2)
- [future eras](#) (1)
- [future happiness](#) (2)
- [future movies](#) (1)
- [future of consciousness](#) (2)
- [future of man](#) (18)
- [future problems](#) (4)
- [future risks](#) (2)
- [future technology](#) (11)
- [future weapons](#) (1)

suggesting such visions occur to very many dying people (as many as 45%, according to one source I will cite).

Posted by Mark Mahin at 7:45 AM

No comments:



Labels: apparition, deathbed vision, life after death, paranormal phenomena

Sunday, March 15, 2020

More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions

In the five posts below I have described or quoted about 115 cases of someone experiencing something like a suprising apparition of someone, only to soon later learn that the corresponding person had died, usually at about the same time the apparition was seen. The five posts are below:

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

[They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type, which are sometimes called veridical apparitions. The links I will give will usually take you to the exact page of an account that I discuss or quote.

On [page 47](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a Lord Brougham who saw an apparition:

"I had had a school friend, in high school, named G, whom I particularly loved and esteemed. At times we discussed the great subject of the immortality of the soul. One day we were foolish enough to draw up a contract, written in our blood, stating that whichever of us two should die first, that one should return and manifest himself to the other in order to banish any doubt that he might have had as to the continuation of life after death. G left for India, and I virtually forgot his existence. I was then, as I say, in my bath, in delicious enjoyment of the grateful heat that warmed my numbed limbs, when, preparing to rise, I cast my eyes upon the chair on which I had put my clothing, and what was my stupefaction to see my friend G seated there, gazing at me calmly! How I got out of the bath-tub I cannot say, for when I came to myself I found myself stretched out on the floor. This apparition, or whatever the phenomenon was which was a likeness of my friend, was no longer there. So strongly was I impressed that I wished to write down, without delay, all the details together with the date, which was December 19th."

- [futurology](#) (2)
- [galactic empire](#) (1)
- [galaxies](#) (5)
- [galaxy formation](#) (6)
- [galaxy spin anomaly](#) (1)
- [gamma ray bursts](#) (2)
- [genes](#) (10)
- [genetic engineering](#) (11)
- [genetics](#) (9)
- [geoengineering](#) (2)
- [ghosts](#) (28)
- [ghosts.](#) (1)
- [global consciousness project](#) (2)
- [global food supply](#) (5)
- [global warming](#) (22)
- [GMO](#) (3)
- [God](#) (2)
- [Great Filter](#) (2)
- [grey goo](#) (1)
- [groupthink](#) (5)
- [habitable zone](#) (1)
- [hallucinogenic drugs](#) (1)
- [happiness](#) (1)
- [heart attack risk](#) (1)
- [heritability of intelligence](#) (1)
- [hierarchy problem](#) (1)
- [Higgs mass](#) (1)
- [higher dimension](#) (1)
- [holographs](#) (1)
- [homeopathy](#) (2)
- [homochirality](#) (2)
- [homosexuality](#) (2)
- [human body plan](#) (1)
- [human extinction](#) (2)
- [human history](#) (1)
- [human intelligence](#) (4)
- [human knowledge](#) (1)
- [hurricanes](#) (1)
- [hypermnnesia](#) (1)
- [hyperthymesia](#) (2)
- [hypnotic trance](#) (8)
- [idealism](#) (3)
- [ideological regimes](#) (1)
- [immortality](#) (3)
- [inflation theory](#) (6)
- [information](#) (1)
- [integrated information theory](#) (1)
- [interplanetary travel](#) (1)
- [interstellar colonization](#) (3)
- [interstellar communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar radio communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar travel](#) (8)
- [Iraq war](#) (1)
- [Kepler Space Telescope](#) (2)

It was subsequently found out that the friend G. had died on exactly this day. A similar account is told on [page 54](#) of the same book. A Baron de Maricourt tells how a priest jokingly said to his young neice, "If you die before I do, let me know." The priest later saw an apparition of his young niece, one that bid goodbye. It was later found that the niece had died on exactly the same day and hour.

On [page 122](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a Henry Bourgeois who learned of a death from an apparition:

"I had a friend named Charles, a youth of sixteen. It was in 1908. One evening, when I was reentering my home, I heard myself called several times, most distinctly, and I recognized his voice perfectly. The voice was disturbed and beseeching, but very tender...Disturbed in spite of myself, I did not go to sleep until very late. Then, almost at once, I was awakened by some one touching my forehead, and a voice calling me; I saw Charles distinctly at the head of my bed; he said to me: 'Good-by! Good-by! All is well with me! Comfort my family! I'll come back to your seances!' And he disappeared slowly. Then there was nothing more! As soon as morning came I ran to our friends' home. I found them greatly disturbed: Charles had not come back that night. Instinctively — I do not know why — I thought of a little piece of ground in the country which they owned. I confided my fears to the family, and took them there. In the garden, under the arbor, we found his body, stretched out on the ground; in his right hand he held a flask in which there was still left a little cyanide solution."

On [page 146](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account of a man who stated that he saw his uncle at about 9:30 AM. He states, "The vision was of rather short duration." He later learned that his uncle had committed suicide at 5:00 AM that day. And speaking of uncle ghosts, on [the next page](#) we read that "a woman, in excellent health and under absolutely normal conditions for observation, saw her uncle appear, for several minutes, seven hours after his death, which she did not know of." We read the following:

"The same phantom rose before her. 'But Uncle, why have you come here? Are you dead?' The apparition vanished immediately after Madame de Lagenest had uttered these words."

On [page 153-154](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have this account by a C. H. of a man in Montbeliard who learned of someone's death many miles away in Haute-Loire, by seeing the man's

- [Kepler-78b](#) (1)
- [ketamine](#) (1)
- [lambda cold dark matter theory](#) (5)
- [language acquisition](#) (1)
- [Large Hadron Collider](#) (2)
- [laws of nature](#) (5)
- [LCDM theory](#) (1)
- [leisure](#) (1)
- [levitation](#) (4)
- [life after death](#) (44)
- [life extension](#) (8)
- [Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment](#) (1)
- [Mad Scientist](#) (1)
- [Many Worlds theory](#) (6)
- [Mars](#) (11)
- [Mars lights](#) (4)
- [Mars strange objects](#) (8)
- [materialism](#) (7)
- [materialism as religion](#) (2)
- [mathematical universe hypothesis](#) (1)
- [mathematics](#) (2)
- [meat consumption](#) (1)
- [medical technology](#) (2)
- [mediums](#) (13)
- [mega-tsunami](#) (1)
- [memory](#) (41)
- [memory implant](#) (1)
- [memory retrieval](#) (3)
- [memory traces](#) (16)
- [mental differences between animals and humans](#) (1)
- [meta-analysis](#) (1)
- [meteor](#) (1)
- [methodological naturalism](#) (1)
- [METI](#) (1)
- [mind](#) (7)
- [mind linking](#) (1)
- [mind over matter](#) (2)
- [mind uploading](#) (5)
- [mind-reading](#) (4)
- [miracles](#) (1)
- [missing heritability problem](#) (1)
- [molecular biology](#) (2)
- [MOND](#) (1)
- [morphic gravitation](#) (1)
- [morphogenesis](#) (8)
- [multiverse](#) (21)
- [mutations](#) (1)
- [mystery of existence](#) (1)
- [nanotechnology](#) (1)
- [natural history](#) (3)
- [natural selection](#) (24)
- [naturalism](#) (2)
- [nature](#) (2)

apparition:

"On a certain evening of the year 1888, my son-in-law, who was living in Haute-Loire, appeared to me. It was about eleven o'clock, and I was thoroughly awake. On the following day I learned that he had died on the morning of the previous day, at eleven o'clock. It is noteworthy that I had no reason to believe him ill, and that he died suddenly."

On [pages 169-170](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have this first-hand account by Jules Lermina:

"I explained to him that my cousin had arrived, and even added that he was doubtless hiding, to tease me. But my father answered: 'It's impossible for Wenand to be here! He died yesterday. I didn't want to tell you.' In short, I saw a person who had been dead for twenty-four hours, and spoke to him."

On [page 182](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have this first-hand account by a Princess de Montarcy:

"My grandmother had always said to me, 'If you're not with me when I die, I'll let you know I'm dead.'... That same evening I went to bed at seven o'clock. At nine o'clock my little dog jumped up on my bed, howling as if he were being killed. I looked and saw (the lamp was lighted) at the foot of my bed, my grandmother, just as I had seen her last, but pale. She threw me a kiss, and disappeared. The following morning, at seven o'clock, I was brought a telegram announcing that she had died between eight and nine in the evening."

On [page 202](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have this first-hand account by G. Bloche:

"My aunt was busy piling up wood in the kitchen. Suddenly I heard her utter a terrible cry. Terrified, she came into the room, and said, weeping: 'My sister Hannah is dead! She appeared to me behind the sticks of wood, dressed all in white!' As a matter of fact, this sister, who lived in Grussenheim, a village about twenty kilometers from ours, had died some days previously."

Apparitions don't always appear as moving phantoms. Sometimes an apparition will appear as if it were designed to tell someone of a death. An example of this occurs on [page 202-203](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, where we have this first-hand account by Lord Beresford:

- [near death experience](#) (21)
- [Neptune](#) (1)
- [neuroscience](#) (45)
- [neutrino](#) (2)
- [neutron](#) (1)
- [non-local consciousness](#) (1)
- [nonneuralism](#) (1)
- [nuclear energy](#) (2)
- [nuclear war](#) (4)
- [nucleosynthesis](#) (1)
- [observer selection effect](#) (1)
- [ocean acidification](#) (1)
- [optogenetics](#) (1)
- [orbs](#) (9)
- [origin of biological complexity](#) (15)
- [origin of flying animals](#) (2)
- [origin of language](#) (7)
- [origin of life](#) (34)
- [origin of man](#) (7)
- [origin of Mind](#) (13)
- [origin of sex](#) (1)
- [out-of-body experience](#) (2)
- [overblown hype](#) (27)
- [overconfidence](#) (6)
- [overconsumption](#) (9)
- [overpopulation](#) (8)
- [overshoot and collapse](#) (1)
- [p-hacking](#) (1)
- [P/2013 R3](#) (1)
- [paleontology](#) (2)
- [pandemic](#) (2)
- [panpsychism](#) (4)
- [panspermia](#) (4)
- [paradoxes](#) (1)
- [parallel universes](#) (3)
- [paranormal healing](#) (1)
- [paranormal phenomena](#) (99)
- [paraverse](#) (1)
- [pareidolia](#) (1)
- [particle collisions](#) (1)
- [particle physics](#) (14)
- [peak coal](#) (3)
- [peak oil](#) (5)
- [peer review](#) (1)
- [phantom events](#) (1)
- [philosophical zombie](#) (1)
- [philosophy](#) (33)
- [philosophy of mind](#) (19)
- [philosophy of science](#) (3)
- [photography](#) (2)
- [physicalism](#) (2)
- [physics](#) (20)
- [pigs](#) (1)
- [planetoids](#) (1)
- [plant intelligence](#) (1)
- [pollution](#) (4)

"It was in the spring of 1864; I was on board the frigate Raccoon on its way from Gibraltar to Marseilles. I had to go down into my cabin to get my pipe. Inside the cabin I saw a coffin in which my father was lying; I saw this as distinctly as if it had been real! I was deeply impressed, and at once told my companions what had happened; they were seated near there, between the cannon, talking. I also told the ship's chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Onslow. In a few days we reached Marseilles, and there I learned of my father's death; he had been buried on the same day and at the same time at which he had appeared to me (half -past twelve). I must add that at the moment of the apparition there was splendid weather, and that I was feeling no uneasiness as to my father, having recently received reassuring news as to his improved health."



On [Page 21-22 of Volume 15](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we read the following account:

"A case reported by M. Belbeder of the 6th Colonial regiment is similar...He had been in bed for about half an hour, and had just read his paper, and put out his candle, when, at the corner of the mantelpiece which was opposite the bed, he saw a white and transparent mist gradually detach itself, advance toward the bed and bend over him. Belbeder states that he clearly heard it say : 'Always be a friend to my son.' The misty form then retired slowly as it came. ' I clearly recognized,' adds the soldier, 'the mother of one of my best friends, whom I had left in the best of health. When I returned home, I was very surprised to learn that she had died just on the day when I saw the apparition, an hour or two before it approached my bed.' "

Finally let us consider a case discussed in a paper entitled "A Daylight Interview with a Man Recently Dead" by Charles Whitby M.D, found on pages 321-323 of [Volume 7](#) of the Annals of Psychical Research (1908). One day an ailing John H. met his employer Mr. P. by chance on a tram car. Mr P. stated that about a week later at about 10:30 AM he met John H. while

- [polygamy](#) (1)
- [pork eating](#) (1)
- [post-scarcity economy](#) (1)
- [precognition](#) (12)
- [predictions](#) (4)
- [primordial fluctuations](#) (1)
- [primordial singularity](#) (1)
- [problem of evil](#) (5)
- [prognostication](#) (2)
- [programmed material universe](#) (8)
- [protein folding](#) (5)
- [psychokinesis](#) (5)
- [psychology experiments](#) (1)
- [psychometry](#) (2)
- [pulsars](#) (1)
- [qigong](#) (1)
- [quantum biology](#) (1)
- [quantum computer universe](#) (1)
- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
- [quantum mechanics](#) (6)
- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
- [quasars](#) (1)
- [racism](#) (1)
- [radical abundance](#) (1)
- [random universes](#) (2)
- [randomness](#) (2)
- [receptacle theory of consciousness](#) (3)
- [recolonization of Earth](#) (1)
- [recommended books](#) (11)
- [Reddit](#) (1)
- [reductionism](#) (2)
- [reincarnation](#) (3)
- [rejuvenation](#) (2)
- [remote viewing](#) (7)
- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
- [requirements underestimation](#) (4)
- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retrocognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
- [robots](#) (14)
- [rogue planet](#) (1)
- [savants](#) (4)
- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
- [science and religion](#) (1)
- [science fiction](#) (104)
- [Science fiction stories](#) (121)
- [science fiction story](#) (118)
- [science journalism](#) (5)
- [scientific consensus](#) (3)
- [scientific explanation](#) (2)
- [scientific explanations](#) (7)

crossing a bridge. The figure Mr. P. met referred to the previous meeting between the two, and said he was worried about what would happen to his children if he died. John H. got word from Mr. P. that he would interest himself in the welfare of John H's children. About an hour later Mr. P. mentioned meeting John H. on the bridge at about 10:30. He was told this was impossible, because John H. had died that very morning, at 9:15. It was later learned that the dying John H. "in his last moments had expressed a very strong desire to see Mr. P."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:40 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Sunday, February 23, 2020

More Apparitions Seen by Multiple Observers

In two previous posts I discussed 34 cases in which multiple witnesses reported seeing the same apparition. The two posts are below:

[When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 Cases](#)

[When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 More Cases](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. I will give links that will usually take you directly to the exact page I am quoting or citing.

On [page 402 of Volume 24](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account:

"The first is the case of a certain Mr. William Smith (pseudonym) who had been for many years Senior Warden of his church, and as such had been accustomed to collect the offertory. On a certain Easter Monday Mr. Smith committed suicide, and on the following Sunday he was seen by the officiating clergyman and two members of the congregation standing on the chancel steps when the offertory was being presented by the two acting Wardens."

On [page 297 of Volume 27](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following: "In February 1932, the hauntings described below began : the apparition of Samuel Bull being seen by the members of the family." On the next page we read this about the same case:

"The apparition was seen by Mrs Edwards and the grandson (aged 21) and then by all the others, widow and grandchildren. At first everyone was terrified and the children screamed, but later, and on subsequent occasions, were calmer, but in a state of quiet awe. The 'appearances' have been very frequent since, but no diary has been kept of dates and happenings."

On [page 300 of the same volume](#), we are told "the appearances

- [scientific literature](#) (2)
- [scientific process](#) (7)
- [scientific speculation](#) (9)
- [scientific theories](#) (5)
- [scientific theory](#) (5)
- [scientist misconduct](#) (1)
- [scientist subculture](#) (1)
- [self](#) (1)
- [self-consciousness](#) (2)
- [sensationalism](#) (1)
- [SETI](#) (16)
- [sex](#) (1)
- [sexism](#) (1)
- [shopping](#) (1)
- [short radio bursts](#) (1)
- [simulated universe](#) (6)
- [Singularity](#) (8)
- [skepticism](#) (9)
- [slavery](#) (1)
- [social media](#) (1)
- [social security](#) (1)
- [social trends](#) (1)
- [sociology of science](#) (13)
- [software development](#) (5)
- [solar flares](#) (1)
- [solar system](#) (1)
- [soul](#) (4)
- [space colonization](#) (2)
- [space station](#) (2)
- [sports of the future](#) (1)
- [STARGATE program](#) (1)
- [starships](#) (1)
- [stem cells](#) (1)
- [string theory](#) (6)
- [subsidies](#) (1)
- [sun](#) (1)
- [supercomputer](#) (3)
- [superintelligence](#) (7)
- [supermen](#) (2)
- [supernovae](#) (2)
- [supersymmetry](#) (9)
- [surveillance state](#) (1)
- [synapse theory of memory](#) (7)
- [taxes](#) (1)
- [technological innovations](#) (1)
- [teleology](#) (4)
- [teleportation](#) (1)
- [theism](#) (3)
- [theories of mind](#) (7)
- [theories of the future](#) (3)
- [theories of the universe](#) (4)
- [theories of time](#) (3)
- [theories of truth](#) (1)
- [theory of accelerating progress](#) (1)
- [theory of consciousness](#) (8)

are not fleeting, but quite lengthy, and [on] one occasion at least, lasted for several hours." At least eight witnesses reported seeing the apparition: Mrs. Edwards (Bull's daughter), her husband, Bull's widow, and Mrs. Edwards' five children (Bull's grandchildren). On [page 302 of the same volume](#), we read, "Mrs Edwards and the grandson, James Bull, aged 21, saw the apparition together." We are told this:

"Mrs Edwards said that all the members of the family, including her husband, had seen the figure. The figure appears to be quite life-like to Mrs Edwards. It does not glide, but walk, and seems solid."



"Did you see what I saw, Mommy?"

On [page 252 of Volume 28](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following account by J.E. Moore and Marjorie Moore of an apparition seen by multiple observers:

"It was during one of these visits that the following covenant was drawn up between my wife's mother and I. 'Should I die before her I would come back and visit her if possible' —and the same was to apply in her case. —This was agreed in my wife's presence. We returned to Portland in due course and I quite forgot the incident, but the other partner to this strange agreement was in the meanwhile unexpectedly called to the place of many 'Mansions' but had not forgotten her part in the play of this strange drama. About six months after this incident, whilst the clocks were chiming the midnight hour, there appeared by the bedside occupied by my wife and myself the spiritual form of my wife's mother. She looked beautiful in her Angelic state, as she stood there quite close to Baby's cot, which was in close proximity to our bed. Her earthly stay only occupied a few seconds—but quite long enough to convince us that she had kept her promise. This was witnessed by myself & wife simultaneously."

On [page 240 of Volume 29](#) of the Journal of the Society for

- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
- [third man factor](#) (1)
- [time dilation](#) (1)
- [time travel](#) (3)
- [tininess of human knowledge](#) (16)
- [top-down theory of mind](#) (1)
- [Transhumanism](#) (3)
- [Twitter](#) (1)
- [types of universes](#) (2)
- [UFO](#) (9)
- [UFOs](#) (8)
- [universe](#) (8)
- [vacuum](#) (3)
- [vacuum catastrophe](#) (3)
- [vegetarianism](#) (2)
- [Venus](#) (1)
- [Venus colonization](#) (1)
- [videos](#) (1)
- [virtual reality](#) (2)
- [vitalism](#) (3)
- [von Neumann probes](#) (2)
- [water memory](#) (1)
- [wealth inequality](#) (4)
- [weddings](#) (1)
- [white holes](#) (1)
- [wormhole](#) (1)

Psychical Research, we read of an apparition that was seen by multiple observers at the same time.

"Only on one occasion does the figure seem to have appeared to two persons simultaneously. This was during August, 1935. At about 8 o'clock, while the family and several guests were sitting at dinner in the hall, a young Dutchman present, who had never heard of the ghost, saw a stranger walk into the door, cross the hall, and go upstairs. 'Mr Henry Westfield ' also saw it, and recognised it as the ghost. "

On the next page we read, "At least two of the people who have reported this phenomenon had not previously been told anything about the ghost, so that suggestion, unless it were a telepathic suggestion, would not account for it." On [page 243](#) of the same volume, we read the following:

"The case presents many interesting features, and is probably as well authenticated a ghost story as it would be possible to find. The phenomena are many and varied, and have been witnessed by several people, some of whom are quite independent (i.e. they did not know about the ghost) so that suggestion can be eliminated. It seems highly improbable that so many phenomena of such widely different types could have been the result of malobservation or pure imagination."

On [page 207 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society of Psychical Research, we read that "repeated apparitions of the same person" were seen by his wife, his mother in law, by a Mrs. B, and "another lady."

On [page 230-231](#) of the same volume, we have an account of a person saying he saw an apparition that "before my very eyes vanished." Mentioning how others had seen the same thing, he stated, "It certainly surprised me to see what was apparently 'too solid flesh' disappear before my very eyes, and when we got outside my friend told me that his was the figure which came to different members of their family so often, and, indeed, had been the cause of their leaving one house."

On [page 33 of Volume 31](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of an apparition seen by two people. A lady, identified in the journal as Mrs. X, killed her husband and herself at about 9 PM on Monday, December 5, 1938. The next morning (December 6) a man and woman reported seeing Mrs. X, hatless, walking on the road outside her house at about 9 AM. As we read on [page 34](#), the husband stated the following (which the wife agreed with):

"Also Mrs X was the only person in sight on the road at the time, neither did we mistake any one else for her as she happened to be a very unmistakable woman owing to her style

of hairdressing, etc. We passed within say 6 feet of her."

On [page 239 of Volume 33](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, and the next page, we have an account of an apparition of David Western that was seen by a Mrs. Carter and Janet Mack in 1942, long after David had died in 1941.

On [page 75 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following mention of an apparition seen by multiple observers:

"Mrs. G. and her three brothers and sister, when children, used every evening to see an apparition of a lady in a stiff brocade skirt, which rustled as she moved, pass through the garret where they played. She was always seen by all present and had also been seen by two ladies next door."

On [page 224 of Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read of an apparition seen by three out of four sisters (the other one looking in the wrong direction to see it):

"The apparition glided onwards towards my sisters, who were standing inside the room, quite close to the outer door, and who had first caught sight of it, reflected in the mirror. When within a few inches from them it vanished as suddenly as it appeared. As the figure passed we distinctly felt a cold air which seemed to accompany it. We have never seen it again, and cannot account in any way for the phenomenon."

The account states that all four of the sisters felt the cold air that accompanied the apparition.

On [page 371-372 of Volume 14](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we read that this occurred the day after the drowning death of Mr. Macy, due to an accident involving a ship named *Niagra* on Lake Michigan:

"In the night, after the family had retired to rest, my daughter discovered a bright light in the sitting-room opening into hers, and the same shadow, which she had indistinctly noticed in the morning, now appeared in the shape and exact semblance of Mr. Macy. She informed her mother of the apparition, immediately adding, under impression, 'Mr. Macy is drowned.' Another daughter, who is also a medium, sleeping in a different part of the house, saw the same light and the shadowy form of Mr. Macy as he appeared to her sister, upon which she was influenced to write 'Niagara — drowned by the upsetting of the small-boat.' The next day, and for the first time, the news of the catastrophe, and the manner of Mr. Macy's death, reached our village."

Skeptics claim that apparitions are just hallucinations. But such skeptics cannot credibly account for the 45 sightings I have discussed in this post and the two posts mentioned at the top of this post, which altogether give 45 cases in which an apparition was seen by multiple observers. The chance of two people having the same visual hallucination is microscopic, even slimmer than the chance of two members of a family having the same dream on one night. In quite a few of the cases I have discussed in these posts, it is not just two people seeing the same apparition, but three or more. In future posts I will discuss dozens of additional cases in which apparitions were seen by multiple observers.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:18 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

They Also Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death

In the four posts below I have described 100 cases of someone experiencing something like a suprising apparition of someone, only to soon learn that the corresponding person had died, usually at about the same time the apparition was seen. The four posts are below:

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. I will give links that you can use to go directly to the accounts that I refer to or quote, without having to scroll to the right page. The links are from publications of the Society for Psychical Research, which was thorough in checking out the accounts told below, usually finding corroborating evidence or corroborating witnesses.

First is an 1891 account by Mabel Olive Gore Booth that appeared in the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research ([Volume 8, page 173](#)).

"We were about half way down, my brother a few steps in advance of me, when he suddenly said— 'Why, there's John Blaney, I didn't know he was in the house!' John Blaney was a boy who lived not far from us, and he had been employed in the house as hall-boy not long before. I said that I was sure it was not he, (for I knew he had left some months previously on account of ill-health), and looked down into the passage, but saw no one.... An hour or two afterwards I asked my maid how

long John Blaney had been back in the house? She seemed much surprised, and said, 'Didn't you hear, miss, that he died this morning?' On inquiry we found he had died about two hours before my brother saw him."

In the same [volume, on page 214](#), we get another account of someone (a choirmaster) learning of a death from an apparition sighting. The 1890 account is by William W. Davis, a clergyman.

"Mr. R[ussell], the bass-singer of the choir, fell in an apoplectic fit upon the street at 10 o'clock on a certain Friday ; he died at 11 o'clock at his house. My wife, learning of his death, sent my brother-in-law down to the house of the choirmaster [Mr. Reeves] to ask him about music for the funeral. The messenger reached the house of the choirmaster about 1.30 p.m. He was told that the choirmaster was upstairs, busy looking over some music. He accordingly sat down in the drawing-room, and, while waiting, began to tell the ladies (sister and niece of the choirmaster) about Mr. R.'s death. While they were talking they heard an exclamation in the hall-way. Someone said, 'My God !' They rushed out, and halfway down, sitting on the stairs, saw the choirmaster in his shirt-sleeves, showing signs of great fright and confusion. As soon as he saw them he exclaimed, ' I have just seen R. !' The niece at once said, 'Why, R. is dead !' At this the choirmaster without a word turned back upstairs and went to his room."

Going back to the moment of the sighting by the choirmaster, the narrator tells us the following:

"At the door he saw Mr. R., who stood with one hand on his brow, and one hand extended, holding a sheet of music. The choirmaster advanced, extended his hand, and was going to speak, when the figure vanished. Then it was that he gave the exclamation mentioned above. You must remember that he knew nothing of R.'s death until he heard his niece speak of it as detailed above."

On [page 216 of the same volume](#), Volume 8 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the first hand account of the choirmaster, who states the following:

"The figure seemed to have a roll of music in one hand and the other over its face, but it was Russell's image. I am quite sure of that. As I advanced to the head of the stairway the figure seemed to turn, as if about to descend, and faded into the air."

On [page 222 of the same volume](#), we have the account below by someone acting in a production of the play *Antigone*:

"I was passing from one dressing-room to another, a few steps

further along the passage, just before going on to the stage, when I saw in the passage, leaning against the door-post of the dressing-room which I left, a Mr. H., whom I had met only twice, but whom I knew well by sight, and as an acquaintance, though I had heard nothing of him for two years. I held out my hand to him, saying, "Oh, Mr. H., I am so glad to see you." In the excitement of the moment it did not occur to me as odd that he should have come thus to the door of the dressing-room,—although this would have been an unlikely thing for a mere acquaintance to do. There was a brilliant light, and I did not feel the slightest doubt as to his identity....He was looking at me with a sad expression...Next day, as a number of us were talking over the performance, my sister called out to me, 'You will be sorry to hear that Mr. H. is dead.' 'Surely not,' I exclaimed, 'for I saw him last night at the Antigone.' It turned out that he had been dead two days when I saw the figure."

In Volume 12 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research ([pages 326-327](#)), we have the following account of a daughter "ghost told" of a mother's death, told by one Joshua Hodgson.

"Between my wife and her mother a very close affection existed and by a strange fate they both were confined to bed at the same time, the daughter daily expecting the birth of her child and the mother sick with what proved to be her last illness....When Grandma died, by the doctor's orders the news of her death was carefully kept from my wife, as it was feared that the consequences might be serious in her critical condition. She was therefore, at the time when the apparition passed her vision, absolutely ignorant of the fact that her mother had already passed away. On Saturday night she was left alone for a short time and during the time the nurse and doctor were out of the room, the apparition appeared to her, when she saw her mother standing at the foot of the bed. The figure beholding her distress spoke to her and simply said 'don't fret' and then immediately vanished. This would be upwards of eighteen hours after Grandma had passed away, my wife being then in total ignorance of her mother's death."

On [pages 317 to 318](#) of the same volume, we read an account of a woman who woke up to see the head of Mrs. J. W., "all else swallowed in darkness." She later got a letter telling her that Mrs. J. W. had died at about the same time.

On [pages 322 to 323](#) of the same volume, Volume 12 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read an account of three different people in three different places who saw an apparition of a grandmother who died at about the same time. Charles L. Tweedale stated the following:

"As I gazed I suddenly saw a face form on the panels of the

cupboard or wardrobe. Indistinct at first, it gradually became clearer until it was perfectly distinct as in life, when I saw the face of my grandmother. What particularly struck me at the moment and burnt itself into my recollection was the fact that the face wore an old-fashioned frilled or goffered cap. I gazed at it for a few seconds, during which it was as plain as the living face, when it faded gradually into the moonlight and was gone....In the morning when at breakfast I began telling the experience of the night to my parents. I had got well into my story, when, to my surprise, my father suddenly sprang up from his seat at the table and leaving his food almost untouched hurriedly left the room. As he walked towards the door I gazed after him in amazement, saying to mother, 'Whatever is the matter with father?' She raised her hand to enjoin silence. When the door had closed I again repeated my question. She replied, 'Well, Charles, it is the strangest thing I ever heard of, but when I awoke this morning your father informed me that he was awakened in the night and saw his mother standing by his bedside, and that when he raised himself to speak to her she glided away.' This scene and conversation took place at about 8.30 a.m. on the morning of January 11th. Before noon we received a telegram announcing the death of my father's mother during the night. We found that the matter did not end here, for my father was afterwards informed by his sister that she also had seen the apparition of her mother standing at the foot of her bed."

Here we have a case of an apparition seen by multiple observers. See my posts [here](#) and [here](#) for 34 other cases of apparitions seen by multiple observers.



On [page 229 of Volume 13](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read of a nun who was surprised to see her "Uncle Oldham" standing next to her. The nun reported the figure said that he had killed himself. The nun later learned that the corresponding person had died. She reported seeing the same figure additional times, for two months, but only momentarily.

On [page 234-235 of the same volume](#), we read the sad account told by a woman named A. A. Gollin who was surprised to see

her fiancée at her place of work, at about 12:30 on Saturday. She asked someone if that person saw the same figure, but that person said she did not. Then the figure could no longer be seen. The woman later found out her fiancée had died on the same day, at about 12:30.

On [page 230-231 of Volume 17](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read of a Mary M. Paterson claiming that on April 4, 1913 the following happened:

"I had walked but a few paces when I was staggered by seeing, as in a cinema show, reflected in the air in front of me a clear-cut picture of my brother in Australia, lying with the unmistakably helpless look of a dead or unconscious man who had just fallen... I felt my brother was dying or dead, or that something tragic was happening to him..Suddenly, when halfway along the road, the picture shone out again before my eyes, this time against the dark sky. Again I saw the prone helpless figure, the colouring of clothes and hair, then as before it faded quickly away, and I did not see it again."

She soon learned that her brother had fallen unconscious on about April 4, 1913, and had not awoken, dying on April 7.

On [pages 80-81 of Volume 19](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an unusual account of someone who saw and talked to a pilot, only to later find that he had died elsewhere at the same time as this occurred.

I will end this post with what is one of the most well-authenticated of all ghost stories.

On [page 39 of Volume 19](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read, "The most remarkable of the experiences which have been reported to us was an apparition of Captain Bowyer-Bower which was seen by his half-sister Mrs. Spearman in India, within a few hours of his death." On [page 41-42](#) we have this account by Dorothy C. Spearman:

"My brother appeared to me on the 19th March, 1917....I saw my brother Eldred W Bowyer-Bower. Thinking he was alive and had been sent out to India, I was simply delighted to see him, and turned round quickly to put baby in a safe place on the bed, so that I could go on talking to my brother; then turned again and put my hand out to him, when I found he was not there. I thought he is only joking, so I called him and looked everywhere I could think of looking. It was only when I could not find him I became very frightened and the awful fear that he might be dead."

On [page 222 of Volume 27](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we are told the following about the same

individual:

"An example of such test-proof evidence to my mind, if we agree (as Mr Saltmarsh appears implicitly not to agree) that latency is hardly likely to endure for six months, is the Bowyer-Bower case (Proceedings, xxxiii. 167). Captain Bower's apparition was seen not only at the time of his sudden violent death, but also six months later (by his mother and again by his fiancée). The details of development and behaviour are strikingly suggestive of the operation of an external intelligence."

Tracing the reference made in the quote above, I find that on [page 172 of Volume 33](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research we have this quote by a relative of this Captain Bowyer-Bower, concerning her small daughter:

"One morning while I was still in bed, about 9.15, she came to my room and said, 'Uncle Alley Boy is downstairs,' and although I told her he was in France, she insisted that she had seen him. Later in the day I happened to be writing to my mother and mentioned this, not because I thought much about it, but to show that Betty still thought and spoke of her imcle of whom she was very fond. A few days afterwards we found that the date my brother was missing was the date on my letter."

We are told on [page 172 of this volume](#) that "Alley Boy" was a "pet name" for this Eldred W. Bowyer-Bower. So apparently we have an apparition of this person appearing to two people at the time of his death or disappearance. A third person mentioned on page 173 had a "certain and awful feeling...that he was killed" before learning of his death. On [page 174](#) we have an account of an apparition of this Eldred W. Bowyer-Bower appearing months after his death. His mother Mrs. Bowyer-Bower narrates it as follows:

"I watched, not at all nervously, and something like a crumpled filmy piece of chiffon unfolded and the beautiful wavy top of Eldred's head appeared, a few seconds and his forehead and broad, beautiful brow appeared, still it waited and his lovely blue eyes came, but no mischievous twinkle, but a great intensity. It all shook and quivered, then his nose came. More waiting and quivering and then his tiny little moustache and mouth. At this point he turned his head very shghtly and looked right into my face, and moistened his lips slightly with his tongue. I kept quite quiet, but it quivered and shook so much and no chin came, and in my anxiety I put out my hands and said : 'Eldred, I see you,' and it all flickered quite out, light and all."

On [page 175 of the same Proceedings](#), we have an account by the fiance of this Eldred, who tells us the following happened

months after his death:

"Afterwards I woke up and looked around and saw Eldred on the bed beside me, he was wearing his blue suit. I sat up and started talking to him....I then tried to touch him, but my hand went through him, and like a fool I started to cry, and he disappeared."

So we can see why the writer quoted earlier called this case "test-proof evidence": the quotes above establish that this apparition of Eldred W. Bowyer-Bower was seen by four different persons in four different places: by his half-sister, his mother, his fiancée and a small child.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 8:47 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Monday, May 13, 2019

When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 More Cases

Apparitions have been by humans throughout history. Skeptics claim that such apparitions are just hallucinations. But there are two reasons for rejecting such a theory. The first reason is that there are very many apparition sightings in which a person sees an apparition of someone (typically someone the observer did not know was in danger), and then later finds out that this person died on the same day (or the same day and hour) as the apparition was seen. We would expect such cases to be extremely rare or nonexistent if apparitions are mere hallucinations, since all such cases would require a most unlikely coincidence. But the literature on apparitions shows that it is quite common for an apparition to appear to someone on the day (or day and hour) of the death of the person matching the apparition. See [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) for 100 such cases.

The second reason for rejecting claims that apparitions are mere hallucinations is the fact that an apparition is quite often seen or heard by more than one person at the same time. We should not expect any such cases under a theory of apparitions being hallucinations. In a previous [post](#), I described 17 cases of an apparition seen by multiple observers. In this post I'll describe 17 additional such cases not mentioned in my previous post.

First, I'll describe the appearance of an apparition without human form (almost all of the other cases will involve apparitions with a human form). On page 28 of the fascinating book *Experiences in Spiritualism with Mr. D. D. Home*, which can be read [here](#), we read this account by the viscount Adare, who describes what he saw after experiencing "our beds vibrating strongly" and "raps on the furniture, doors, and all about the room":

We both saw in exactly the same spot, a perfectly white column, it can scarcely be called a figure, as the shape was indistinct. It moved from the dressing table toward Home's bed. Home said he saw a white object about the size of a child floating near the ceiling above his head. I saw it also, but it appeared to me to be in mid air, half way between the bed and the ceiling; it was floating about in a horizontal position; it was like a small white cloud without any well-defined shape...It then slowly floated to the foot of his bed and disappeared.

Below are some cases from Volume 2 of the classic work on apparitions, "Phantasms of the Living," which you can read [here](#). I will use the case numbers given in the book. You can click on the links to go the exact page I refer to.

Page 612, Case 659: A person and his sister were surprised to see at the person's bedside the person's brother, who was believed to be far away doing a job for a reigning prince. Three weeks later word came that the brother "had died the same night, and the same hour."

Page 613, Case 660: Two brothers were in bed when they both saw the apparition of a lady to whom their father was engaged. She died suddenly that same night.

Page 615, Case 662: Between 6 and 7 o'clock, a woman, her brother and her mother all saw Ellen, the woman's sister. The woman "tried to catch hold of her, but seemed to catch nothing." The next day they found out that Ellen had drowned to death "a little before seven" on the same they saw the apparition.

Page 616, Case 663: A woman saw her husband's mother. When she cried out, the husband looked up, and "the apparition vanished." On the same evening, two male children of the woman saw a strange silent female figure pacing back and forth in their bedroom. It was later found that the husband's mother had died on the same evening.

Page 617-618, Case 665: Two brothers woke to see standing between their cots the figure of their father. When one of the brothers rose up, the figure vanished. They later found that their father had died at the same hour.

Page 622, Case 667: Four people were startled to see an apparition that disappeared just after a woman screamed, "He's dead." Word later arrived that a person corresponding to the apparition had been murdered on the same night. The account says, "his spirit appeared to his wife, his child, an elder sister, and myself."

I will now discuss a case that appears on [page 259](#) of "Phantasms of the Living," as case #357. But a much earlier source for the sighting is the fascinating and very long 1872 book "Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World" by Robert Dale Owen. [On page 383](#) the book tells us the following narrative. On October 15, 1785, seeing someone while in America, John Sherbroke brought the sight to the attention of Colonel Wynyard, who identified the person as his brother, John Wynyard. "Both remained silently gazing on the figure," we are told by Owen. Owen later says Sherbroke later received a letter "begging Sherbroke to break to his friend Wynyard the news of the death of his favorite brother, who had expired on the 15th of October, and at the same hour at which the friends saw the apparition." Two and a half years later John Sherbroke saw someone who he thought resembled the figure he had seen when the "apparition sighting" occurred. The man turned out to be a man who looked so much like John Wynyard that he had been previously mistaken for him.

[On page 377](#) of the same book by Owen, we have a case of an apparition seen by multiple witnesses. A British Lord traveled away from London, leaving his wife there. While in the Scottish Highlands, he saw an apparition of his wife. Ringing for his servant, the man asked the servant what he saw. The servant replied, "It's my lady!" The wife had died in London that night. About a year later, the man's daughter exclaimed that she had seen her deceased mother. The daughter died on the same night from an illness. Owen said he received the account in writing from a member of the man's family.

[On page 387-391](#) of the same book by Owen, we have the account of an apparition seen by Baron de Guldenstubbe in 1854. The Baron reporting seeing the apparition at length. Later he questioned people involved in maintaining the property, and found that two others had seen the same apparition, one of them several times. The account was told to Owen by the Baron.

[On page 398 to 401](#) of the same book by Owen, we have an account of an apparition seen repeatedly by Madame Hauffe, and also seen once by a forest ranger name Boheim, who said he saw a gray cloud turn into a human form.

[On page 417 to 424](#) of the same book by Owen, we have a discussion of a dramatic case Owen investigated through interviews with the two witnesses. A Miss S. saw an apparition of two strange figures several different times, who identified themselves as having a last name of Children. Later a Mrs. R. reported seeing the same two figures, with the luminous letters "Dame Children" above the female figure. It was later discovered that a family with the last name of Children had once lived in the house where the apparitions were seen.

In Camille Flammarion's [book](#) "The Unknown," on page 178 (case CLXXVIII) we read that Minnie Cox reported seeing in

1869 an apparition of her brother, who was far away in Hong Kong. This occurred an hour after the brother's son (living with Minnie) had reported seeing his father. The next mail which came from China informed her of her brother's death, which had happened on the same day Minnie had seen the apparition.

A very well-documented case of an apparition seen by multiple observers is the case of the [Cheltenham ghost](#). Between 1882 and 1886 several observers saw inside and around a particular house an apparition of a mysterious figure in black, who would often be seen with a handkerchief over her face. Rosina Despard saw the figure more than five times. You can read [here](#) the lengthy written testimony of Rosina and the written testimony of several other witnesses who saw the apparition (or use [this](#) link to get the same account from page 311 of Volume 8 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research). Rosina testified to "the sudden and complete disappearance of the figure, while in full view" (page 321). Describing a sighting of the same figure, Edith Morton said, "suddenly I felt a cold, icy shiver, and I saw the figure bend over me" (page 325). W.H.C. Morton testified to seeing the figure three times. An F.M.K. also reported seeing the figure. An M.E. Brown reported that she and someone else saw a "dark, shadowy figure, dressed in black, and making no noise, glide past us along the passage and disappear round a corner" (page 327), and that she saw the mysterious figure twice more (page 328).

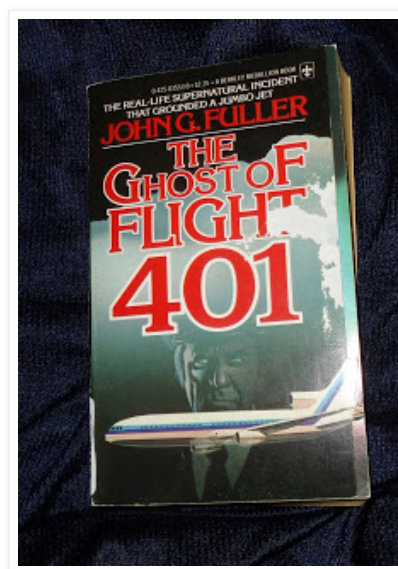
Perhaps the most famous ghost in history was the mysterious phantom figure of Katie King. As I describe in [this](#) post, the figure was seen by many people over the course of two years, such as the distinguished scientist William Crookes (discoverer of the element thallium). In that post I quote four different books by four different contemporary authors containing eyewitness testimony of sightings of the mysterious Katie King. In three of these cases, it's the author of the book who gives part of the eyewitness testimony citing observations of the mysterious figure. Similarly, as described [here](#), the phantom figure of Bien Boa was seen by multiple distinguished witnesses, one a Nobel Prize winner.

A much more recent case of an apparition seen by multiple observers is the case described by John G. Fuller in his book *The Ghost of Flight 401*. On page 138 to 139 he describes three witnesses (a flight captain, a stewardess and a flight supervisor) seeing in the first-class section of the aircraft a silent figure dressed as an airline pilot, a figure who wouldn't respond to questions. "My God, it's Bob Loft" said the captain, referring to an airline pilot who had died not long ago in an airline crash that had killed more than 100 passengers. Then, according to Fuller:

The captain in the first-class seat simply wasn't there. He was

there one moment -- and not there the next.

The aircraft was searched, but the figure was never found.



In the scientific paper [here](#), researchers found that 39 out of 84 apparition witnesses reported that someone else present shared their experience. The authors of the paper attempted to track down how many people could corroborate such reports. Nine such people had either died or could not be tracked down, leaving 30 left. The authors stated, "In 21 instances out of the 30, the witnesses verified the respondent's description of the case."

Such cases sometimes occur in recent years. For example, on pages 4-6 of the 2018 book *Already Here* by Leo Galland M.D., Leo tells us that while waiting to hear the fate of his son "three hours away" after an accident, both he and his wife saw an apparition of that son. In the same hour of that day, Leo learned that attempts to revive his son had failed.

Quite a few additional cases of apparitions seen by multiple observers might be found by doing a Google search for "Marian apparition," although such cases are quite different from those I have discussed.

An additional case of an apparition seen by multiple observers can be read [here](#).

Postscript: In the latest issue of the Journal of Scientific Exploration, there is a long [editorial](#) by parapsychologist Stephen E. Braude on the topic of apparitions seen by multiple observers. He discusses the inadequacies of attempts to explain such cases through supposing only telepathy is occurring. He states, "The alternative approach I've argued for, particularly for collective cases, is that apparitions in these cases are products of living-agent, or possibly postmortem, PK, continuous with (if not similar to) other reported examples of ostensible materialization."

A case of an apparition seen by multiple observers is recounted on [this](#) page.

An earlier version of the account involving Sherbroke and Wynyard is to be found [on page 77](#) of the 1825 work *Signs before death, and authenticated apparitions: in one hundred narratives* by John Timbs.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [10:11 AM](#)

No comments:



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Monday, May 4, 2020

Even More Cases of Veridical Apparitions

In the six posts below I have described or quoted about 130 cases of someone experiencing something like a suprising apparition of someone, only to soon later learn that the corresponding person had died, usually at about the same time the apparition was seen. The six posts are below:

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

[They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death](#)

[More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. The links I will give will usually take you to the exact page of an account that I discuss or quote.

On [page 8 of Volume 7](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following case:

"My little daughter Gwendoline was playing with her dolls, and she suddenly laughed so as to attract my attention, and I asked her what she was laughing at. She said, 'O mother, I thought I saw little Jack in that chair'—a vacant chair in the room—and indicating her little cousin. About five minutes after this the clerk telephoned from the office saying he had just received a telegram from Penzance announcing the death of little Jack."

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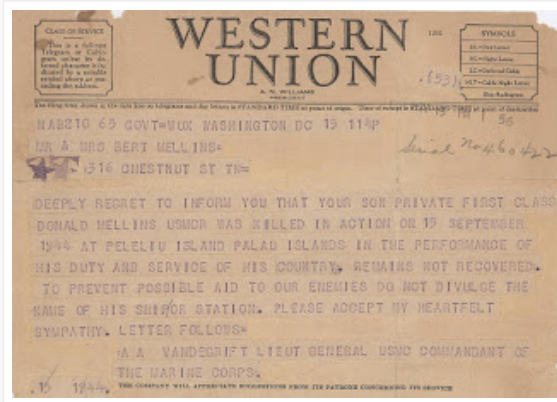
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People once learned of a death by a telegram like [this](#)

On [page 80 of Volume 7](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following case:

"Mrs. Shaw has nephew at Mentone for his health. No special anxiety on his account. One night (10 o'clock summer) she met his apparition at her mother's gate, and noted details of costume. Before she could speak figure vanished. Telegram announced death at that hour."

On [page 259 of Volume 7](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following case told by Charles E. Martratt:

"I went to bed one evening about 9 o'clock. About an hour afterward, I was awakened from sleep by my wife, who said, 'Charlie, granny has been here, and she spoke to me. She said to me 'Ellen, I am dead, but don't be afraid. When you come to the funeral, look at the left side of the back part of my head, and you will see the cause of my death.' Granny stood at the foot of the bed, with a night-cap on.' My wife said that when she had spoken to her she disappeared. The next morning about 8 o'clock a.m., a telegram came, saying that the old lady was dead. My wife took the earliest possible train to the nearest railway station to where her grandmother had lived, which was Gansvoort near Fort Edward, New York), and then rode some five miles into the country to the house where she had died. The old lady had not been put in her coffin yet, and lay in the front parlour with a night-cap still on her head. My wife said that she went and raised the night-cap and examined the head of the corpse, and found a large bump or bruise on the back of the head."

On [the same page](#), Martratt tells us of a very similar incident involving his wife:

"She was sitting in a room sewing, and noticed a shadow at the door. On looking up, she saw my brother Matthew standing before her. She said, 'Why, Mat, what are you doing here? I thought you were sick.' She arose to get a chair, but when she turned toward him, he was gone. She looked up and down the street, but could find no trace of him. On my return

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in the evening, she told me what had happened, and expressed a fear that my brother was dead. The next morning a telegram came, saying that my brother had died the previous day at about the hour in which she saw the vision. He died about ten miles distant."

On [page 64 of Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following case:

"Naval lieutenant sees apparition of sister on bridge of his steamer. Vision persists while he makes a note. Some months afterwards he learns that sister died at the same hour."

On [pages 86-87 of the same volume](#), we read of the following case of seeing the apparition of someone at about the time of his death:

"C. and I had gone to sleep, when we were suddenly awakened by L.'s bursting into our room, at about two o'clock, and calling out, 'Oh, Mr. K. has been in my room !' She said that he had come in while she was reading a novel in bed. She heard his footsteps up the stairs, and saw him come in and go to the window, where he stood looking out for a few moments, and then went away. We said that this must be all nonsense ; but she insisted that she had not been to sleep. We went to sleep, but were again awakened in a couple of hours by a groom, who came from the great house, taking telegrams to the village, to say that Mr. K. was dead."

On [page 108 of Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following case of a godmother seeing the apparition of a boy of 17 at the time of his death:

"The following is a case, coming within the range of my own experience, of a lad of 17 years appearing to his godmother at the moment of his death. The lad was dying of consumption, and wrote to me to come to him. He was hundreds of miles distant from where I was residing at the time.....I was in bed at a quarter-past eight, and at 20 minutes to nine I saw standing at the door, illumined by a soft light which appeared to emanate from his person, and thereby rendered him visible, as the room was dark. An ecstatic expression lit up his countenance, and he appeared to be habited in his usual day wearing apparel. I felt intuitively that it was a phantom, although real appearance, and was daily in expectation of receiving news of his departure. On the third day from this occurrence I got a letter informing me that he had died at the very time I saw him."

On [page 163 of the same volume](#), we read of the following case:

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"Mrs. Parker saw face and form of brother-in-law just as he appeared when last seen. He was known to be very seriously ill at a distance. His death occurred at the time of the apparition."

On [page 164 of Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following case:

"Martin informs us that when in India in 1857 Major Gall left Lucknow with dispatches to go across country. On the second day after his departure Mrs. Gall communicated to Mrs. Martin that she had seen the apparition of her husband on the previous night and she felt assured he must be dead. Tidings of the Major's death reached Lucknow a few days after."

On [page 50 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, dating from 1894, we read the following:

"The number of apparitions thus included of persons who are definitely reported as dead at the time is nine, and the number of apparitions of persons who died at or near the time their apparition was seen—but about whom it cannot be affirmed that they were at the moment either living or dead—is 56."

Not all apparitions have full-body forms. Some are only partial body forms. On [page 123 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"Mrs. B. described the apparition as exactly like a coloured picture of her mother, head and shoulders, which passed along the wall and faded. She did not mention what she had seen to anyone, and the following evening an aunt of hers arrived from London to tell her that her mother was dead."

On [page 212 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"He had gone to bed early, 8.30 or a little later ; and between 9 and 12 he woke up and saw the figure of his aunt, Mrs. P—, standing with her arms down near the foot of the bed at one side, dressed in an ordinary black dress such as he had seen her in many times....Then the figure gradually vanished...So he put down on a piece of paper, 'I believe Aunt P died on the 17th,' and put the paper in a drawer....Then in due time an English paper gave the news of his aunt's death with date, November 17th."

On [page 214-215 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"In June, 1879, I was a teacher in Macclesfield. A friend, Mrs. _____, was near her confinement. She told me she was afraid she would die. I went into the county of Durham for a

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holiday. While there I was roused from sleep by Mrs. _____ as I supposed. She was shaking me, and saying, 'I have passed away, but the baby will live.' Then the figure left the room by the door. I got out of bed and went to my sister and related the incident. We agreed to make a note of it. Next day I received a letter from a friend in Macclesfield saying that Mrs. _____ was dead but the baby was alive."

On [page 225 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"The first Thursday in April, 1881, while sitting at tea with my back to the window and talking with my wife in the usual way, I plainly heard a rap at the window, and looking round I said to my wife, 'Why, there's my grandmother,' and went to the door, but could not see anyone ; and still feeling sure it was my grandmother, and knowing, though 83 years of age, she was very active and fond of a joke, I went round the house, but could not see anyone. My wife did not hear it. On the following Saturday I had news my grandmother died in Yorkshire about half an hour before the time I heard the rapping."

On [page 228 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"I remember very distinctly my step-brother, J. H. , getting up in bed one night in August, 1878, and saying he could see an apparition of my brother in a kneeling position, and my father coming into the bedroom to ask what was the matter. He referred to his watch, and found it was about 2.30 a.m. The following morning we received news of my brother's death at the time stated."

On [page 237 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"I saw very distinctly the apparition of a friend passing in front of a looking glass. I was then in bed. I lived at the time in Rio de Janeiro. It was, I believe, about 3 a.m....The appearance coincided, as nearly as we could make out, with the moment of death."

On [page 252 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account by a Mrs. G. who says, "I saw my mother...standing at my bedside," but that "when I spoke to her and tried to touch her, she immediately vanished." Mrs. G. stated, "My mother died at the exact time I saw her at my bedside, as I found next morning."

On [page 370 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account by a woman who says that she saw an apparition of someone she said had not seen in

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years, only to get a letter the next day saying the person had died.

On pages [155-156](#) of Louis Rhine's book *Hidden Channels of the Mind*, we have the following extremely spooky account of a young girl who apparently saw a ghost she did not know was a ghost, a figure wearing the traditional [First Communion attire](#) of a white dress:

"In New York City a bright three-year-old girl had a play mate, Anne, who was seven. Anne, a diabetic, died. The little three-year-old was told that Anne had gone away on a trip. She did not see her or go to the funeral. Several days after the funeral, the mother says, 'I sent my daughter to get a broom for me from the hall closet and she returned without it. I asked her why. She said Anne would not let her. I asked what she meant, and she said Anne was standing in the hall closet and would not let her by. When I was convinced she was not joking or telling a story, I asked what Anne had on. She said a pretty white dress and veil, and that they could not go out because Anne had no coat. Anne had been buried in her communion dress....Two days later my daughter became ill and two weeks from the day Anne died, my daughter died of pneumonia.'"

On [page 263](#) of the same book, we have this spooky account:

"Several young daughters slept in one room in different beds. One night ten-year-old Mary wakened her mother in an adjoining room to complain that her older sister Nancy was standing by her bed and wouldn't go away. The mother went to the girls' room, and saw that Nancy was asleep in her own bed, and she thought Mary was just imagining things. Before long Mary again disturbed her mother. Nancy was standing by her bed, she said, but she wouldn't answer when spoken to. Again the mother went to the girls' room and again found Nancy asleep. Throughout the night at intervals Mary kept talking to Nancy, asking her to please go over to her own bed. The next morning, as was their custom, the family arose, leaving Nancy asleep, for she was not a strong child and needed extra rest. Later, at bed-making time, her mother called her and getting no response, came closer and discovered that Nancy was dead. The doctor's opinion was that she must have died soon after retiring."

On [pages 409-410](#) of Volume 5 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a woman who saw an apparition of a man who previously seemed to have some romantic interest in her:

"I felt a cold waft of air through the room and a feeling as though some one touched my shoulder; my hair seemed to bristle all over my head and I shuddered. Raising my eyes to

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the door (which faced me), I saw Akhurst standing in his shirt and trousers looking at me, when he seemed to pass through the door. In the morning I mentioned it to my husband. I did not hear of Mr. Akhurst's death for some weeks after, when I found it corresponded with that of the apparition, and though my father knew of it before, he thought in my weak state of health it were better I should not be told."

On [pages 373-374](#) of Volume 10 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a Miss M. who saw an apparition of someone named Jessie, before she knew Jessie was dead. The apparitions persisted for a while. She stated, "I received a letter the next morning informing me that she was dead, after which I saw her only at intervals that day and part of the next, when the appearances ceased."

On [page 10](#) of Volume 5 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account by a Mrs. V.:

"I then saw most beautiful lights at the end of the room ; these lights gave place to a cloud, and after a few moments the face of a dear sister, then living (as I believed), appeared in the cloud, which remained a little while and then gradually faded away. I became much alarmed and at once felt I should hear bad news of my sister, who was living in London and had been very ill, though the last accounts we had received had been better. I told my husband what had happened, and when a telegram was brought by a friend at 8 o'clock that morning I knew what its contents must be. The telegram contained the news of my sister's death during the previous night."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:59 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Many an Apparition Is Seen by More Than One

In three previous posts I discussed many cases in which multiple witnesses reported seeing the same apparition. The three posts are below:

[When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 Cases](#)

[When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 More Cases](#)

[More Apparitions Seen by Multiple Observers](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. I will give links that will usually take you directly to the exact page I am quoting or citing.

On [page 20](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account of an

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apparition that appeared as a "phosphorescent cloud" shortly after the death of someone named Cognet. We read this account by someone named Texier:

"Suddenly I saw a glow which made me utter a cry of terror. My father got up and took me into bed with him. The glow persisted; it was a sort of phosphorescent cloud, without definite outlines....My father pronounced these words in a loud voice: 'If you are Cognet, strike three blows on the chest of drawers.' This piece of furniture, marble-topped (it is still in my possession) was in the room giving on to the alcove. Three loud and measured blows were then struck upon the marble of the chest of drawers. Then, little by little, the glow thinned, melted, and I saw nothing more."

On [pages 27-28](#) of Volume 6 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a husband and wife in a locked room who saw an apparition of the husband's father, a man who had died long ago.

"I saw a gentleman standing at the foot of the bed, dressed as a naval officer....I looked at my husband and saw that his face was white and agitated....I was by this time exceedingly agitated too, but remembering that the door was locked, and that the mysterious visitor had not gone towards it all, remarked, 'He has not gone out by the door !' But without pausing, my husband unlocked the door, hastened out of the room, and was soon searching the whole house. Sitting there in the dark, I thought to myself, 'We have surely seen an apparition !'....Sitting upon the bedside, he put his arm about me and said, 'Do you know what we have seen ?' And I said, 'Yes, it was a spirit. I am afraid it was Arthur, but could not see his face' — and he exclaimed, 'Oh ! no, it was my father!' My husband's father had been dead fourteen years."



On [pages 120-121](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account that a

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child in Italy named Mimi was surprised to see what appeared to be her living father, who she thought was in Austria. A moment later she could no longer find such a person. Mimi states, "The next day a telegram reached the school: my poor father had died at half-past seven in the evening, at the hour at which he had appeared to me." Mimi also tells us this regarding her father's apparition:

"He appeared not only to me but also to my grandmother....There were three of them in the dining-room: my grandmother, her second husband, and my grandmother's daughter, when the door opened and my father came in. My grandmother exclaimed: 'There you are! How splendid that you got well so soon!' There was no one there. My grandmother said: 'Let us pray! He is dead.'"

On [page 134](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account by Charles Tweedale of an apparition seen by three people:

"I saw, suddenly, a form appear in front of me, before the panels of the cupboard. Indistinct at first, it gradually grew clearer, until I recognized the face of my grandmother. I had been observing it for some seconds, when the vision melted away gradually, and disappeared in the moonlight....The morning of the next day, at breakfast, I was beginning to tell of the apparition of the previous night, when to my great surprise my father left the table abruptly. He was most agitated; he went out of the room hastily, leaving his breakfast almost untouched. I asked my mother for an explanation. She silenced me with a gesture. When the door was closed once more, I repeated my question. Then my mother answered: 'Charles, I'm going to tell you the strangest thing I've ever heard of. This morning your father told me that he had waked up in the night, and that he had seen his mother standing near his bed, but just at the moment when he wished to speak to her she had disappeared.' This scene and this conversation had taken place about half-past eight, on the morning of Saturday, January 11th. Before noon we received a telegram announcing that my grandmother had died during the night. But that was not all, for my father next learned that his sister, who lived about thirty kilometers from our home, had also seen my grandmother appear. Three persons, therefore, had the same vision independently, and each attributed it to an hallucination."

On [page 168-169](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account by Countess Amelie Caeandini of an apparition seen by two people:

"One evening, about nine o'clock, every one in the house was still up and about. When my sister, aged seventeen, was

- [Kepler-78b](#) (1)
- [ketamine](#) (1)
- [lambda cold dark matter theory](#) (5)
- [language acquisition](#) (1)
- [Large Hadron Collider](#) (2)
- [laws of nature](#) (5)
- [LCDM theory](#) (1)
- [leisure](#) (1)
- [levitation](#) (4)
- [life after death](#) (44)
- [life extension](#) (8)
- [Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment](#) (1)
- [Mad Scientist](#) (1)
- [Many Worlds theory](#) (6)
- [Mars](#) (11)
- [Mars lights](#) (4)
- [Mars strange objects](#) (8)
- [materialism](#) (7)
- [materialism as religion](#) (2)
- [mathematical universe hypothesis](#) (1)
- [mathematics](#) (2)
- [meat consumption](#) (1)
- [medical technology](#) (2)
- [mediums](#) (13)
- [mega-tsunami](#) (1)
- [memory](#) (41)
- [memory implant](#) (1)
- [memory retrieval](#) (3)
- [memory traces](#) (16)
- [mental differences between animals and humans](#) (1)
- [meta-analysis](#) (1)
- [meteor](#) (1)
- [methodological naturalism](#) (1)
- [METI](#) (1)
- [mind](#) (7)
- [mind linking](#) (1)
- [mind over matter](#) (2)
- [mind uploading](#) (5)
- [mind-reading](#) (4)
- [miracles](#) (1)
- [missing heritability problem](#) (1)
- [molecular biology](#) (2)
- [MOND](#) (1)
- [morphic gravitation](#) (1)
- [morphogenesis](#) (8)
- [multiverse](#) (21)
- [mutations](#) (1)
- [mystery of existence](#) (1)
- [nanotechnology](#) (1)
- [natural history](#) (3)
- [natural selection](#) (24)
- [naturalism](#) (2)
- [nature](#) (2)

walking through a hall of the apartment, she was stupefied to see a tall, beautiful girl standing near her under the lighted gas-jet. She did not know this girl, who was dressed in the costume of a peasant. Astounded, she uttered a cry, and the phantom vanished. She wept with fright, and my mother scolded her. Next morning, the cook, a girl of about twenty-five, came to my mother and told her that that evening, when she had got into bed, she had heard a sound of breathing, and felt on her face something that was like a breath; that when she had opened her eyes she had seen, standing near her bed, one of her friends whom she had known in her native place: a tall, beautiful girl dressed in peasant costume. 'That beautiful girl,' said the cook, 'was in the habit of behaving badly; I often gave her good advice, but it didn't have any effect.' She had died on the previous day."

On [page 227](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account by Caroline Judd:

"One morning in October, three weeks after her death, I saw my grandmother distinctly — her face, as always, calm, and her big eyes looking at the old clock as usual. I closed my eyes for some seconds, then opened them again, and still saw her. I closed my eyes a second time, but when I opened them she was no longer there. Since my family sometimes called me a dreamer, I took care not to breathe a word about this vision. On the following evening my sister, who is not at all dreamy, but most practical, told me in confidence, before we got into bed (her bed was beside mine) : 'If you'll promise not to make fun of me, I 've something to tell you.' — 'What?' — 'Well, I saw my grandmother this morning.' The details which she then gave me were in entire accord with what I had seen myself.' "

On [page 228](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of a woman who saw an apparition of a friend's dead husband. The woman reported that soon thereafter the friend reported seeing the same apparition. On the [next page](#) is an account of an apparition of a deceased husband being seen by a wife and the wife's children.

On [page 247](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of an apparition seen by more than one:

"My mother and my sister — about a month after my mother's brother-in-law, our uncle, had died — were witnesses of an apparition of him. They saw this on different dates — my mother about a month after the death, and my sister fifteen days later still. My mother saw it spontaneously, without

- [near death experience](#) (21)
- [Neptune](#) (1)
- [neuroscience](#) (45)
- [neutrino](#) (2)
- [neutron](#) (1)
- [non-local consciousness](#) (1)
- [nonneuralism](#) (1)
- [nuclear energy](#) (2)
- [nuclear war](#) (4)
- [nucleosynthesis](#) (1)
- [observer selection effect](#) (1)
- [ocean acidification](#) (1)
- [optogenetics](#) (1)
- [orbs](#) (9)
- [origin of biological complexity](#) (15)
- [origin of flying animals](#) (2)
- [origin of language](#) (7)
- [origin of life](#) (34)
- [origin of man](#) (7)
- [origin of Mind](#) (13)
- [origin of sex](#) (1)
- [out-of-body experience](#) (2)
- [overblown hype](#) (27)
- [overconfidence](#) (6)
- [overconsumption](#) (9)
- [overpopulation](#) (8)
- [overshoot and collapse](#) (1)
- [p-hacking](#) (1)
- [P/2013 R3](#) (1)
- [paleontology](#) (2)
- [pandemic](#) (2)
- [panpsychism](#) (4)
- [panspermia](#) (4)
- [paradoxes](#) (1)
- [parallel universes](#) (3)
- [paranormal healing](#) (1)
- [paranormal phenomena](#) (99)
- [paraverse](#) (1)
- [pareidolia](#) (1)
- [particle collisions](#) (1)
- [particle physics](#) (14)
- [peak coal](#) (3)
- [peak oil](#) (5)
- [peer review](#) (1)
- [phantom events](#) (1)
- [philosophical zombie](#) (1)
- [philosophy](#) (33)
- [philosophy of mind](#) (19)
- [philosophy of science](#) (3)
- [photography](#) (2)
- [physicalism](#) (2)
- [physics](#) (20)
- [pigs](#) (1)
- [planetoids](#) (1)
- [plant intelligence](#) (1)
- [pollution](#) (4)

previous warning. As for my sister, she was on this occasion alone in a room. She was astonished to hear some one walking in a hall near my mother's room. She went into the hall and found herself in the presence of the apparition, which vanished immediately."

On [pages 93-94 of Volume 2](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1905), we have the following account of an apparition seen by multiple witnesses, occurring at the time the corresponding person died:

"St. Petersburg, May 4th, 1891.-- This is the phenomenon which was witnessed by the whole of our family. It was at St. Petersburg, in 1880, when we were living in rue Pouchkarska. One evening in the month of May, about 6 o'clock, my mother (now Madame Telechof), was in the salon with her five children, of whom I was the eldest (I was then 16 years of age). Just then an old servant of the house, whom we treated as a friend (but who was at that time no longer in our service), had come to see us, and was engaged in conversation with my mother. Suddenly the merry gambols of the children stopped and the general attention was turned towards our dog 'Moustache,' who had rushed, barking fiercely, towards the stove. Involuntarily we looked to the same direction, and saw on the cornice of the great stove, made of porcelain tiles, a little boy, of about 5 years of age, in his shirt. We recognised the boy as the son of our milk-woman -- Andre --who often came to our house with his mother to play with the children ; they lived quite near us. The apparition left the stove, passed above us all, and disappeared in the open casement. During all this time--about fifteen seconds--the dog did not cease to bark with all its might, and ran and barked, following the course of the apparition. The same day, a little later, our milk-woman came to the house and informed us that her son Andre, after a few days' illness (we knew that he was ill), had just died ; it was probably at the moment when he appeared to us."

Below the statement in this journal, we have the names of three witnesses who attested to such an observation.

On [pages 63-64 of Volume 3](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1906), we have an account of a deceased priest whose apparition was seen by three different people. We are told, "three out of the five Passionist Fathers who occupied the Ardoyne Monastery had seen the apparition and recognised it, and as they had been acquainted with the deceased during his lifetime, they were able to testify to the fact."

On page 85 of [Volume III](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1906), we have an account of an apparition seen by a dying woman and three other people, all of whom identified the apparition as being the deceased sister of the person who was

- [polygamy](#) (1)
- [pork eating](#) (1)
- [post-scarcity economy](#) (1)
- [precognition](#) (12)
- [predictions](#) (4)
- [primordial fluctuations](#) (1)
- [primordial singularity](#) (1)
- [problem of evil](#) (5)
- [prognostication](#) (2)
- [programmed material universe](#) (8)
- [protein folding](#) (5)
- [psychokinesis](#) (5)
- [psychology experiments](#) (1)
- [psychometry](#) (2)
- [pulsars](#) (1)
- [qigong](#) (1)
- [quantum biology](#) (1)
- [quantum computer universe](#) (1)
- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
- [quantum mechanics](#) (6)
- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
- [quasars](#) (1)
- [racism](#) (1)
- [radical abundance](#) (1)
- [random universes](#) (2)
- [randomness](#) (2)
- [receptacle theory of consciousness](#) (3)
- [recolonization of Earth](#) (1)
- [recommended books](#) (11)
- [Reddit](#) (1)
- [reductionism](#) (2)
- [reincarnation](#) (3)
- [rejuvenation](#) (2)
- [remote viewing](#) (7)
- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
- [requirements underestimation](#) (4)
- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retrocognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
- [robots](#) (14)
- [rogue planet](#) (1)
- [savants](#) (4)
- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
- [science and religion](#) (1)
- [science fiction](#) (104)
- [Science fiction stories](#) (121)
- [science fiction story](#) (118)
- [science journalism](#) (5)
- [scientific consensus](#) (3)
- [scientific explanation](#) (2)
- [scientific explanations](#) (7)

dying.

On [page 372](#) of Volume 10 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of an apparition seen by three or four people, an apparition of a godmother:

"My youngest sister, since dead, was called to my mother, and left Devonshire, where she was staying with friends, to come home. Then she arrived at home, she entered the drawing-room, but rushed out terrified, exclaiming that she had seen godmamma, who was seated by the fire in my mother's chair. Godmamma had been dead since 1852. She had been my mother's governess — almost foster-mother ; had lived with her during her married life, been godmother to her eldest girl, and when my father died, had accepted the duty of taking his place as far as possible in the family, to shield her from trouble and protect her — a duty which she fulfilled nobly. My other sister went into the drawing room to see what had scared K , and saw the figure of godmamma just as K had. Later in the day, the same figure stood by, then sat on the edge of my mother's bed, and was seen by both my sisters and the old servant, looking just as she had when alive, except that she wore a grey dress, and, as far as we could remember, she had always worn black. My mother saw her, for she turned towards her and said, 'Mary' — her name."

On [page 432](#) of [Volume 7](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1908), we have an account of an apparition seen by more than one, and heard by many:

"A man named Jules Cenabrita, who had died a few days previously, appeared leaning out of a window of the house in which he had lived, and was thus seen by various persons living in the house opposite. This was the only visible apparition of the deceased man. But the spirit continued to manifest, speaking with its own voice, conversing with people in the house, and declaring that it did not again make itself visible simply to avoid frightening them. This phenomenon was repeated for two months, and numerous reputable and credible persons have not only been present when it occurred, but have also taken part in the conversations with the invisible Jules, who had been, and still seemed, gay and pleasant, and always began by singing or praying."

On [page 178](#) of *Enigmas of Psychical Research* by James Hyslop, we have this account of an apparition seen by three people:

"About the end of November, or the beginning of December, in the same year (1872), I was disturbed one morning before it was light, as near as may be between 5 and 6 a. m., by the appearance of a tall figure, in a long dress, bending over the

- [scientific literature](#) (2)
- [scientific process](#) (7)
- [scientific speculation](#) (9)
- [scientific theories](#) (5)
- [scientific theory](#) (5)
- [scientist misconduct](#) (1)
- [scientist subculture](#) (1)
- [self](#) (1)
- [self-consciousness](#) (2)
- [sensationalism](#) (1)
- [SETI](#) (16)
- [sex](#) (1)
- [sexism](#) (1)
- [shopping](#) (1)
- [short radio bursts](#) (1)
- [simulated universe](#) (6)
- [Singularity](#) (8)
- [skepticism](#) (9)
- [slavery](#) (1)
- [social media](#) (1)
- [social security](#) (1)
- [social trends](#) (1)
- [sociology of science](#) (13)
- [software development](#) (5)
- [solar flares](#) (1)
- [solar system](#) (1)
- [soul](#) (4)
- [space colonization](#) (2)
- [space station](#) (2)
- [sports of the future](#) (1)
- [STARGATE program](#) (1)
- [starships](#) (1)
- [stem cells](#) (1)
- [string theory](#) (6)
- [subsidies](#) (1)
- [sun](#) (1)
- [supercomputer](#) (3)
- [superintelligence](#) (7)
- [supermen](#) (2)
- [supernovae](#) (2)
- [supersymmetry](#) (9)
- [surveillance state](#) (1)
- [synapse theory of memory](#) (7)
- [taxes](#) (1)
- [technological innovations](#) (1)
- [teleology](#) (4)
- [teleportation](#) (1)
- [theism](#) (3)
- [theories of mind](#) (7)
- [theories of the future](#) (3)
- [theories of the universe](#) (4)
- [theories of time](#) (3)
- [theories of truth](#) (1)
- [theory of accelerating progress](#) (1)
- [theory of consciousness](#) (8)

bed. I distinctly recognized this figure to be no other than my sister-in-law, Mrs. W., who, as I felt, distinctly touched me. My husband, who was beside me asleep at the time, neither saw nor felt anything. This appearance was also made to an aged aunt, residing at this time at Theydon Bois, near Epping, Essex. She told my husband as recently as the 4th inst. (1885), that the appearance came to her in the form of a bright light from a dark corner of her bedroom in the early morning. It was so distinct that she not only recognized her niece, Mrs. W., but she actually noticed the needlework on her long night-dress ! This appearance was also made to my husband's half-sister, at that time unmarried, and residing at Stanhope Gardens. The last-named was the first to receive the announcement of the death of Mrs. W."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:47 AM No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts.](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Friday, April 10, 2020

More Nineteenth Century Evidence for ESP

"The phenomenon of thought-transmission is an established fact and unanimously admitted by all the philosophers who have taken the trouble to study it conscientiously and thoroughly, and only obstinate and superficial minds could persist in denying it after so much experience and so many positive proofs."

Camille Flammarion, Death and Its Mystery: Before Death, [page 114](#)

In a previous [post](#) I discussed evidence for extrasensory perception from the nineteenth century. Let us look at some more evidence for telepathy from that century.

One of the most compelling cases is told on [pages 126-128](#) of Volume 8 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research. A Thomas Garrison tells us this:

"On the night of my mother's death there was a meeting in Fordland, and myself and wife attended the preaching. We had then one child, a baby a year old....About ten o'clock, just before the meeting closed, while the congregation was singing, I felt the first desire to see my mother....And then the impulse to go to her became so strong that I gave the baby to a neighbour-woman and left the church without telling my wife. She was in another part of the house. The train going west which would have taken me [to] Rogersville, seven miles of the distance to my mother's place, was due at 10.30 p.m., but before I got home and changed my clothes and returned to the depot, the cars had left the station. I still felt that I must see my mother and started down to railroad track alone, and walked to Rogersville. Here I left the railroad and walked down the wagon way leading from Marshfield to Ozark, Mo. It was

- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
- [third man factor](#) (1)
- [time dilation](#) (1)
- [time travel](#) (3)
- [tininess of human knowledge](#) (16)
- [top-down theory of mind](#) (1)
- [Transhumanism](#) (3)
- [Twitter](#) (1)
- [types of universes](#) (2)
- [UFO](#) (9)
- [UFOs](#) (8)
- [universe](#) (8)
- [vacuum](#) (3)
- [vacuum catastrophe](#) (3)
- [vegetarianism](#) (2)
- [Venus](#) (1)
- [Venus colonization](#) (1)
- [videos](#) (1)
- [virtual reality](#) (2)
- [vitalism](#) (3)
- [von Neumann probes](#) (2)
- [water memory](#) (1)
- [wealth inequality](#) (4)
- [weddings](#) (1)
- [white holes](#) (1)
- [wormhole](#) (1)

about 3 o'clock a.m. when I reached my mother's house. I knocked at the door two or three times and got no response. Then I kicked the door, but still made no one hear me. At last I opened the door with my knife and walked in and lighted a lamp. Then my sister, Mrs. Billie Gilley, the only person who had been living with my mother, awoke and I asked her where mother was. She replied that she was in bed, and I said 'She is dead,' for by that time I felt that she could not be alive. She had never failed to wake before when I had entered the room at night. I went to my mother's bed and put my hand on her forehead. It was cold. She had been dead about three hours the neighbours thought from the condition of her body."

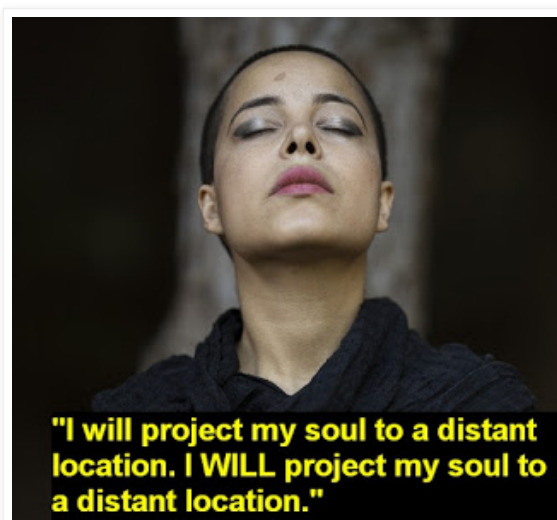
Commenting on this case, Camille Flammarion [stated](#), "So here is a man who, without any known cause, without any normal reasons, leaves a religious service which he is attending, gives his child to a neighbor to hold, does not tell his wife, and goes twenty miles on foot at night to rush to his mother who has just died !"

On [page 124](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account of a man whose mental efforts seemed to have resulted in an apparition of himself. We read this account by J. M. Russell:

"I was living in Scotland ; my mother and sisters were in Germany....It happened that for two years I was not able to see my family, according to my custom. All at once I decided to leave, but my family knew nothing of my intention. ...The thought came to me to wish with all my strength to appear to one of my sisters, in such a way as to apprise them of my arrival. I thought of her with all the intensity possible, I wished with all my might to be seen by one of them. I believe I did not concentrate my thought for more than ten minutes. I left by the Leith steamship one Saturday evening, toward the end of April, 1859.... I reached the house at about six o'clock on the morning of the following Tuesday. I entered without being seen, for the door was open, and made my way into the room. One of my sisters was sitting with her back turned to the door; she turned about when she heard me and on seeing me stared at me, turned pale as death, and dropped what she held in her hand. I had said nothing until now. Then I spoke : 'It's I,' I said. 'Why are you so frightened?' At that she answered: 'I thought I was seeing you as Stinchen [another of my sisters] saw you Saturday.' In answer to my questions she told me that on Saturday evening, toward six o'clock, my sister had distinctly seen me enter through a door into the room where she was, open the door of another room where my mother was, and shut the door behind me. She had dashed after what she believed to be me, calling me by my name, and was absolutely stupefied when she did not see me with my mother. My mother could not understand my sister's excitement. They looked for

me everywhere, but naturally could not find me."

This account is by no means unique. In my previous [post](#) on nineteenth century evidence for ESP, I quoted two other accounts in which other people reported the same thing: that after they had made an intense mental effort to kind of project their presence to some other person, that such a person had reported seeing an apparition of the person making the attempt.



On [page 133](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have this account by Commander T. W. Aylesbury:

"At the age of thirteen, I fell overboard from a ship that was approaching the isle of Bali, to the west of Java, and I was almost drowned. After having sunk several times, when I came up to the surface of the water I called my mother, at which the boat's crew was very much amused; and they teased me many times about it, sparing no sarcasm. Several months later, on my return to England, I told the whole story to my mother and said at once: 'While I was under the water I saw you all sitting in this room; you were working on something white. I saw you all — Mother, Emily, Eliza, and Ellen.' His mother confirmed his statement. 'I heard you call me,' she said, 'and I sent Emily to look out at the window.' The time, considering the difference in longitude, corresponded to the hour at which the voice had been heard."

Aylesbury's sister gave [this account](#) corroborating his account:

"I recall the incident perfectly. It made such an impression upon me that I shall never forget it. We were seated and working peacefully, one evening, when first we heard a feeble cry of 'Mother!' We raised our eyes and said: 'Did you hear some one cry "Mother"?' The words had hardly left our lips when the voice called again, 'Mother!' twice in succession. The last cry was stamped with terror, it was like a cry of agony."

We all rose and my mother said, 'Go to the door and see what it is.' I ran into the street and searched for several minutes, but everything was silent and I saw no one; the evening was fine, without a breath of air. Mother was very much upset by this experience."

This seems to be an interesting case of an increase in telepathy at the time of an altered state of consciousness. There is a great deal of evidence that ESP can show up more often during altered states of consciousness such as hypnotic trances. In modern tests using what is called the ganzfeld protocol, in which people are tested for ESP under conditions of sensory deprivation, subjects score an average of about 32% in tests in which the expected chance result is only 25% (see page 472 of [this](#) link for a statistical figure of 32.2% averaged over 10 experimental studies).

On [page 135](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a husband who was suddenly "seized with intolerable anguish" at half-past eight o'clock on December 22, being struck with the impression that his wife was in anguish. At 9 o'clock on that day he wrote a letter to his wife, saying this:

"You must have been thinking of me, earnestly calling me, perhaps with anguish. Is it pain? Is it danger? Oh, tell me what you wanted of me at that hour ! I came home in great distress, all upset."

The husband then found out that at about eight o'clock on that day, his wife had discovered that her baby had been accidentally scalded by hot water.

On [page 138](#) of the same book we have an account of a wife who had a vision of her husband falling from a horse. Later that day she found out that just such a thing had happened.

On [page 139](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a Professor de Sanctis:

"I was once at Rome with my family, which had remained in the country. As the house had been robbed the year before, my brother was in the habit of sleeping there. One evening he told me he was going to the Costanzi Theater. I had come in alone and was beginning to read when I was suddenly seized with terror. I struggled against it and was beginning to undress, but I remained obsessed by the thought that the theater was on fire and my brother in danger. I put the light out; but, growing more and more disturbed, I lit it again, contrary to my usual custom, and decided to await my brother's return before I went to sleep. I was truly frightened, just as a child might be."

At half-past twelve I heard the door open, and what was my astonishment when my brother told me about the panic that had been caused by the outbreak of a fire, which had coincided with the hour of my anxiety."

On [page 139-140](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a Dr. Quintard:

"A child of seven, Ludovico, possessed a gift for solving problems similar to that of the celebrated Inaudi. The child's father finally noticed one day, first, that he hardly listened to the reading of the problems that were given him, and, secondly, that his mother's presence was the one condition necessary for the success of the experiment. She always had to have the required solution under her eyes or in her mind. From this he deduced that his son did not calculate but divined, or, to be more exact, that the mother transmitted her thought to him; and he resolved to make sure of the matter. Consequently, he asked her to open the dictionary and ask the boy which page she was looking at, and the boy answered at once : 'It is page four fifty-six,' which was correct. Ten times he repeated this and ten times we obtained the same result. When a sentence of any length was written on a tablet it was enough for it to pass under the mother's eyes for the child, when questioned, even by a stranger, to be able to repeat the whole of it."

I have had personal experiences very strongly suggesting telepathy between me and family members (a daughter and a sister), and at [this](#) link (which includes some other fascinating accounts of ESP) you can read my accounts of what seemed like telepathy between me and a family member.

On [page 140-141](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an astonishing account by Joseph Doutaz, who claimed to have had a dream of the words written by his father a short time ago:

"It was in the middle of November of the year 1859. At the time I was eighteen years old. I went to bed and to sleep.....I saw the sorrowful face of my dear old father....'My dear Joseph,' he said, 'it is with great sorrow that I am writing to tell you that your poor sister, Josephine, is dying in Paris.' I was awakened by this vision but said to myself at once: 'Ah! bah ! it is a dream !' At that I went to sleep again. But behold, the same vision appeared again, exactly as at first, with the same sorrowful look and the same words: 'My dear Joseph,' etc., 'but your mother does not yet know the sad news.' 'This time,' I said, jumping out of bed, 'I no longer believe it's a dream,' and under the painful impression of a sorrowful reality, I dressed and looked at my watch : it was

half-past twelve. When day had come I set out for the college...I opened the package at once. It was accompanied by a letter from my father, written in great haste; I read: 'Dear Joseph, it is with great sorrow that I am writing to tell you that your poor sister Josephine is dying in Paris.'

On [page 149](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, Canon Warburton tells this remarkable story:

"At exactly one o'clock I awoke with a start, crying out, 'By Jupiter! he has fallen!' I saw my brother, who came out of a drawing-room on to a brilliantly lighted landing, catch his foot on the first step of the stairway and fall head first, breaking the fall with his elbows and hands. I had never seen the house and I did not know where it was. Thinking very little of the accident, I went to sleep again. A half-hour later I was waked up by the abrupt entrance of my brother, who exclaimed : 'Ah, there, you are ! I nearly broke my neck. As I was leaving the ball-room I caught my foot and fell full length down the stairway.' "

On [page 156](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, Rod Fryer gives this account (corroborated by a statement of his brother):

"One of my brothers was away from home, when one afternoon, at about half-past five, I was astonished to hear myself called distinctly by my name. I recognized the voice of my brother so clearly that I ran all over the house to find him ; but as I did not find him, and knowing that he was forty miles from there, I ended by believing it an illusion, and thought no more of it. When my brother arrived, six days later, he told me that he had just escaped a very serious accident. As he was getting off the train his foot had slipped and he had fallen his entire length on the platform. 'What is very curious,' he said, 'is that when I felt myself falling I called you.' This fact did not strike me at the moment, but when I asked him at what hour it had happened he named an hour which exactly corresponded with that in which I had heard him."

Summarizing some nineteenth century experimental results discussed in his book *Psychical Research*, scientist Sir William Barrett [stated](#) the following on page 68:

"Summing up the result of the numerous Liverpool experiments, Mr. Guthrie states that 437 trials were made with objects, colours, drawings, numbers, pains, tastes, etc. ; of these 237 were correctly transferred and a few others partly correct. Entire corroboration of these results have been obtained by many other independent and competent observers,

both at home and abroad. Hence though not yet officially recognized by science, no doubt of the reality of thought-transference can be left on the mind of any diligent and thoughtful student, however critical he may be."

In many nineteenth experiments subjects placed under hypnosis seem to display dramatically better telepathic abilities. An example is described on [pages 73-74](#) of Barrett's book:

"One of the most interesting experiments was made when in answer to my request that she would mentally visit London and go to Regent Street, she correctly described the optician's shop of which I was thinking. As a matter of fact, I found, upon subsequent inquiry, that the girl had never gone fifty miles away from her remote Irish village. Nevertheless, not only did she correctly describe the position of this shop, but told me of some large crystals of Iceland spar ('that made things look double') which I knew were in the shop, and that a big clock hung outside over the entrance, as was the case. It was impossible for the subject to gain any information of these facts through the ordinary channels of sense, as there was no conversation about the matter. My friend, the late Mr. W. E. Wilson, F.R.S., was present when these experiments were made in his father's house, and in answer to my request he subsequently wrote to me confirming them, saying, 'We proved beyond all doubt that the subject was able to read the thoughts of the mesmerizer.' "

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [8:02 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ESP](#), [paranormal phenomena](#), [remote viewing](#)

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Deathbed Visions: The Earliest Accounts (Part 2)

Deathbed visions are a different phenomenon from near-death experiences. Near-death experiences are accounts of extraordinary experiences of those who had close brushes with death, but who recovered to tell the story of their remarkable experiences. Deathbed visions are usually extraordinary observational accounts told by those who came very close to dying, and then actually did die. The great interest in near-death experiences has caused the different phenomenon of deathbed visions to be overshadowed and overlooked.

In [Part 1](#) of this two-part post I quoted some of the earliest accounts of deathbed visions, provided in a 1906 paper by Ernesto Bozzanno. I also discussed some deathbed visions described in the 1926 book *Death-bed Visions* by Sir William Barrett, which can be read [here](#). Let us look at some more accounts in that book that I didn't mention in my previous post.

On [page 43](#) we have an account of a Jim who when dying said

that he saw three of his siblings who had previously died.

On [page 46](#) we read of two sisters who died of smallpox, Minnie dying before Ada. We read this about Ada's death:

"Suddenly the sick child woke up from a kind of stupor, and exclaimed, 'Oh, look, Mamma, look at the beautiful angels !' pointing to the foot of the bed. Mrs. G. saw nothing, but heard soft sweet music, which seemed to float in the air. Again the child exclaimed : 'Oh, dear Mamma, there is Minnie! She has come for me ' ; she smiled and appeared greatly pleased. At this moment Mrs. G. distinctly heard a voice say, 'Come, dear Ada, I am waiting for you!' ' The sick child smiled once again and died without a struggle."

On [page 48](#) we read of the death of a son:

"Then he spoke again and said, ' Mother, here is Grandmother come ! You must see her ! And she is with such a great company, and they say that they are come to take me away with them.' Soon after that he gently breathed his last."

On [the same page](#) we read of another person's death:

"Just before death he raised himself in his bed, resting himself upon his hand and said, ' Who is that at the bottom of my bed ?' His mother, who was sitting by his bedside, said, 'There is no one there, my dear.' He said, ' Don't you see Emma' (a departed sister) 'standing at the foot of the bed ?' She said, 'No, there is no one there, my dear' 'Yes, there is,' he said, 'it is Emma. I am coming, I am ready'; and fell back and died."

On [page 49](#) we read this account of a death of a boy from consumption:

"On the morning of the day he died, his mother having left the room to fetch him something, heard him call and hastening back, found him sitting up in bed, looking towards the corner of the room, and he said to her, ' There is a nice old man come for me ; he is holding out his arms for me. I must go. Don't fret, Mother' ; and he fell back gently on his pillow and was gone, without any struggle for breath, and with a smile of joy on his face, which remained."

On [page 50](#) we read this account of a death:

'An old man, named John George...lay dying. He and his wife, Mary Ann George, had had a great sorrow that same year in the death of their youngest son, Tom, a young man who had been killed on the railway line on which he worked. The dying man had been quiet for some time as though sleeping, when he suddenly looked up, opened his eyes wide, and looking at the side of the bed opposite to where his wife was,

exclaimed, 'Why, Mother, here is Tom, and he is all right, no marks on him. Oh, he looks fine.'

On [page 51](#) we read of the death of a woman:

"She suddenly looked up with such a bright expression of face and said, ' Oh, Emmie, Mother is here ; she has come for me, and is going to take me with her.' She never lost the feeling of confidential joy, and passed away the day after quite peacefully."

On [pages 51-52](#) we read of the death of a nine-year-old boy who saw his sister who had died four years ago and others who had died such as a Roy who had died a year ago (the account is taken from [this](#) other page):

"Feeling that he was going, he asked his mother to hold his hands until he should be gone. Soon he looked up and said, 'Mother, dear, don't you see little sister over there ?' 'No, where is she ?' 'Right over there. She is looking at me.' Then the mother to pacify him said she saw the child. In a few minutes his face lighted up full of smiles, and he said, ' There comes Mrs. C.' (a lady of whom he was very fond, who had died nearly two years before), ' and she is smiling just as she used to. She is smiling and wants me to come.' In a few moments he said, 'There is Roy ! I'm going to them. I don't want to leave you, but you'll come to me soon, won't you ? Open the door and let them in. They are waiting outside,' and he was gone."

On [pages 68-69](#) we read of the death of diptheria of a Hattie:

"She knew she was passing away, and was telling our mother how to dispose of her little personal belongings among her close friends and playmates, when she suddenly raised her eyes as though gazing at the ceiling toward the farther side of the room, and after looking steadily and apparently listening for a short time, slightly bowed her head, and said, 'Yes, Grandma, I am coming, only wait just a little while, please.' Our father asked her, 'Hattie, do you see your grandma ?' Seemingly surprised at the question she promptly answered, 'Yes, Papa, can't you see her ? She is right there waiting for me.' At the same time she pointed toward the ceiling in the direction in which she had been gazing. Again addressing the vision she evidently had of her grandmother, she scowled a little impatiently and said, ' Yes, Grandma, I'm coming, but wait a minute, please.' ...She then fixed her eyes steadily on her vision but so faintly that we could but just catch her words, said, ' Yes, Grandma, I'm coming now.' Then without a struggle or evidence of pain of any kind she gazed steadily in the direction she had pointed out to us where she saw her grandma, until the absence of oxygen in her blood-

stream, because respiration had ceased, left her hands and face all covered with the pallor of lifeless flesh....Her grandmother had died a few years previously."

On page 71-72 we read this account:

"My father died in Germany on March 18th, 1892, and my mother then came to live with us at Odessa. Shortly after she fell ill, and died on May 6th of the following year, 1893....A few minutes before her death she regained consciousness (having been in a state of coma for two hours previously), raised herself in her bed, stretched out her arms, and with a happy smile on her face, cried out, ' Papa ! Papa ! ' just as if she suddenly saw him in front of her. Immediately after she fell back into the arms of my wife, and expired. My mother used to call her husband 'Papa' just as we children did."

On [page 74](#) we read of a deathbed vision apparently observed by multiple witnesses:

"In one case two women watching by their dying sister, Charlotte, saw a bright light and within it two young faces hovering over the bed, gazing intently at Charlotte; the elder sister recognized these faces as being two of her brothers, William and John, who had died when she was young. The two sisters continued to watch the faces till they gradually 'faded away like a washed-out picture,' and shortly afterwards their sister Charlotte died."

On [page 75](#) we read this account:

"Miss H., the daughter of an English clergyman, was tending a dying child. His little brother, aged three to four years, was in a bed in the same room. As the former was dying, the little brother woke up, and, pointing to the ceiling with every expression of joy, said, 'Mother, look at the beautiful ladies round my brother ! How lovely they are, they want to take him.' The child died at that moment."

The [next page](#) gives a similar account of a small child reporting an apparition at the time of someone else's death:

"A little girl of three, Hippolyte Notari, partly paralysed, was in the same room with her little brother of four months, who was dying. The father, the mother, and the grandmother of the two children were present. About fifteen minutes before the death of the infant, little Hippolyte stretched out her arms, saying, 'Look, mother, Aunt Olga.' This Aunt Olga was a younger sister of Mme. Notari, who had killed herself a year previously owing to a disappointment in love. The parents asked, ' Where do you see Aunt Olga ?' The child said, 'There, there !' and tried insistently to get out of bed to go to

her aunt. They let her get up, she ran to an empty chair and was much discountenanced because the vision had moved to another part of the room. The child turned round and said, pointing to a corner, 'Aunt Olga is there.' Then she became quiet and the baby died."

On [page 109](#) we read of someone seeing deathbed apparitions of two deceased friends of a dying girl:

"The first time that I received this ocular proof was at the death of Laura Stirman, a sweet girl of seventeen, who was a personal friend of mine. She was a victim of consumption....A short time before she expired I became aware that two spirit forms were standing by the bedside, one on either side of it. I did not see them enter the room ; they were standing by the bedside when they first became visible to me, but I could see them as distinctly as I could any of the human occupants of the room. I recognized their faces as those of two girls who had been the closest friends of the girl who was dying. They had passed away a year before and were then about her own age."

In 1891 Sara Underwood wrote an account of seeing a very unusual apparition: the apparition of a face appearing over the face of a dying person. Her account is to be found on page 364 of the document [here](#) (the Arena, August 1891):

"I thought I could more easily let her go out into the unknown if I could but feel that her hope would be realized, and I put into words this feeling. I pleaded that if there were any of her own departed ones present at this supreme moment could they not and would they not give me some least sign that such was the fact, and I would be content. Slowly over the dying one's face spread a mellow radiant mist— I know no other way to describe it. In a few moments it covered the dying face as with a veil, and spread in a circle of about a foot beyond, over the pillow, the strange yellowish-white light all the more distinct from the partial darkness of the room. Then from the centre of this, immediately over the hidden face, appeared an apparently living face with smiling eyes which looked directly into mine, gazing at me with a look so full of comforting assurance that I could scarcely feel frightened. But it was so real and so strange that I wondered if I were temporarily crazed, and as it disappeared I called a watcher from another room, and went out into the open air for a few moments to recover myself under the midnight stars. When I was sure of myself I returned and took my place again alone. Then I asked that, if that appearance were real and not an hallucination, would it be made once more manifest to me; and again the phenomenon was repeated, and the kind, smiling face looked up at me — a face new to me yet wondrously familiar. Afterwards I recalled my friend's frequent description of her dead father whom she dearly loved, but whom I had never

seen, and I could not help the impression that it was his face I saw the hour that his daughter died."

The case below was reported by a Mrs. Chambers, and quoted in [pages 30-31](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion (one of the three volumes of a trilogy which you should really read in all three of its volumes [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)):

"Tommy Brown was a poor boy, twelve years old, belonging to a numerous and destitute family. His health was shattered; he was stretched on a hospital bed. His father had died, two years before, in a bed near this one. On a certain night he said to his mother, 'Mamma, there's Father.' 'No, dear' his mother answered ; 'there's no one there.' 'Yes there is! Why, don't you see him near the bed? Speak to him.' She saw nothing, and the nurse saw nothing. 'What's your papa doing?' the mother asked, at length. 'He's looking at you.' And, a moment afterward : 'He's looking at me, and beckoning me to follow him, so he can take me away with him.'...Talking in this way, the child lost consciousness. He died some days later."

On [pages 309-310](#) of Volume 13 of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the astonishing account below of a man who saw paranormal sights during the last hours of his dying wife's life:

"My wife died at 11.45 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 1902; and, after four o'clock upon the afternoon of that day, I became convinced that her death was merely a question of moments...At 6.45 (the reason why I am so positive as to the time is because a clock was upon the bureau in plain sight), I happened to look towards the door, when I saw floating through the doorway three separate and distinct clouds in strata. Each cloud appeared to be about four feet in length, from six to eight inches in width, the lower one about two feet from the ground, the others at intervals of about six inches. My first thought was that some of our friends (and I must ask their pardon for the thought) were standing outside the bedroom smoking, and that the smoke from their cigars was being wafted into the room. With this idea, I started up to rebuke them, when, lo ! I discovered there was no one standing by the door, no one in the hallway, no one in the adjoining rooms. Overcome with astonishment I watched the clouds; and slowly, but surely, these clouds approached the bed until they completely enveloped it. Then, gazing through the mist, I beheld, standing at the head of my dying wife, a woman's figure about three feet in height, transparent, yet like a sheen of brightest gold; a figure so glorious in its appearance that no words can be used fitly to describe it. She was dressed in the Grecian costume, with long, loose and flowing sleeves—upon her head a brilliant crown. In all its splendour and beauty the

figure remained motionless with hands uplifted over my wife, seeming to express a welcome with a quiet, glad countenance, with a dignity of calmness and peace. Two figures in white knelt by my wife's side, apparently leaning towards her ; other figures hovered about the bed, more or less distinct. Above my wife, and connected with a cord proceeding from her forehead, over the left eye, there floated in a horizontal position a nude, white figure, apparently her astral body. At times the suspended figure would lie perfectly quiet, at other times it would shrink in size until it was no larger than perhaps eighteen inches, but always was the figure perfect and distinct : a perfect head, a perfect body, perfect arms and perfect legs. When the astral body diminished in size, it struggled violently, threw out its arms and legs in an apparent effort to escape. It would struggle until it seemed to exhaust itself, then become calm, increase in size, only to repeat the same performance again and again. This vision, or whatever it may be called, I saw continuously during the five hours preceding the death of my wife. Interruptions, as speaking to my friends, closing my eyes, turning away my head, failed to destroy the illusion, for whenever I looked towards that deathbed the spiritual vision was there.... At last the fatal moment arrived ; with a gasp, the astral figure struggling, my wife ceased to breathe ; she apparently was dead : however a few seconds later she breathed again, twice, and then all was still. With her last breath and last gasp, as the soul left the body, the cord was severed suddenly and the astral figure vanished. The clouds and the spirit forms disappeared instantly, and, strange to say, all the oppression that weighed upon me was gone ; I was myself, cool, calm and deliberate, able to direct, from the moment of death, the disposition of the body, its preparation for a final resting place."

On [page 311](#) of the same volume we have a Dr. Renz testify to the sanity and stability of the witness who made the previous statement:

"By his friends and associates he is considered an extremely calm, level-headed and strong-willed business man... From my own observations I can most positively put aside a temporary acute state of hallucinatory insanity during the time of the vision mentioned above."



Researching the topic of deathbed visions, Karlis Osis and Erlendur Haraldsson conducted research surveys of hospital workers. In a July 1977 [paper](#) published in Volume 71, Number 3 of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, they reported 178 cases of dying people who reported seeing an apparition of a dead person (Table 1). The number was much higher than the 68 who reported an apparition of a living person. The majority of these apparitions were described as having a purpose of being there to "take away" the dying person. In the US there was a very high percentage of deathbed apparitions identified as a mother, father, spouse, sibling or offspring, while in India there was a relatively high percentage of apparitions identified as unidentified figures (Table 2). Roughly half of the people reporting such visions were characterized as having a consciousness of "clear," rather than "mildly impaired," "severely impaired" or "fluctuating" (Table 3).

We read the following on a [page](#) of the Psi Encyclopedia:

"In 2017, Una MacConville carried out a study with Irish health care professionals. The carers reported that 45% of their patients spoke of visions of deceased relatives, often joyful experiences that bring a sense of peace and comfort."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:39 AM

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Tuesday, June 9, 2020

When Apparitions Are Seen of Those Who Died Long Ago (Part 3)

Apparitions of the dead seem to occur most commonly close to the death of the person corresponding to the apparition. But it is not all that rare for someone to see an apparition of someone who died long ago. I discussed some cases of this type in two previous posts [here](#) and [here](#). In this post I will cite some more cases of this type.

On [pages 259-260](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of a Dr. Cabral who had helped a poor, deserted patient named Deolinda who died of consumption:

"I had scarcely stretched myself out on my bed when I was pervaded by an intense feeling of well-being. I could not account for this sensation. Soon I had an impression that some object was touching my head, as though some one were wrapping me up in something. Astonished at this feeling, I called to the two ladies who were on duty in the next room. Madame Felicia Diaz said to me: 'I see a young girl, dressed in white, at the head of your bed; she's putting a wreath of roses on your forehead. She says that her name is Deolinda, and that she has come to show her gratitude for the generosity with which you cared for her.' I was greatly astonished by this statement. I recalled the fact that it was the anniversary of Deolinda's death; neither I nor any one else had thought of this. I had never spoken to any one in that house of what I had done for Deolinda."

On [page 278](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account by an L. Devert:

"One morning, when all the sisters were leaving the chapel, Mademoiselle Adrienne was seen in the kitchen. She said that she did not wish to live in her room any longer, that a sister had frightened her. They proved to her that all the sisters

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— that every one except herself was at mass. 'I know that,' she said. 'It was a sister whom we don't know. She's tall, slender, and very pale. She came up to my bed, and looked at me. I spoke to her and she did not answer, but I shall never forget her gaze. She walked all around the room, slowly, then went away.' There was no sister who corresponded to Mademoiselle Adrienne's description, and they spent the whole day discussing this phenomenon. Then one of the nuns thought of showing her a photograph of Sister Bouchez, who had died two months before Mademoiselle Adrienne entered the school. She recognized her at once. Sister Bouchez had been accustomed to working in these small rooms, where she gathered together all sorts of things for the sick."

On [page 279](#) of the same Flammarion book, we have an account that is doubly interesting. The first reason it is interesting is that it is yet another account of very high brain damage causing no serious damage to intellectual functioning. You can read about similar such cases in [this](#) post. Such accounts conflict with prevailing neuroscience dogmas that the brain is the source of the human mind, as do very many other facts gathered at [this](#) site. We read the following:

"A young girl, Marie Bottini, aged thirteen (she is a peasant from Boregio), fell over a precipice and struck her head against a stone which made a wound on her right temple. It fractured her skull and a piece of bone was driven into it. It was 6 x 7 — that is to say, 42 centimeters square. The fragment of bone, completely detached from the skull, buried itself in the gray matter of the brain, where it still is. A great deal of the gray matter issued from her head; in order to sew up the flesh wound I had to take out about fifty grams of it. The little girl was brought to me thirty-six hours after the accident; I found her able to give clear answers to all my questions, and up to the present time she has not been afflicted with any nervous disorder, either of her intellectual faculties, her muscular control or her sensibility. In spite of the effects of the wound on her system, she suffered no mental disturbance, and was able to give, and can still give, minute explanations of what happened to her."

Here we have a story of a girl with massive brain damage, and a loss of at least fifty grams of gray matter, but no noticeable intellectual damage. There are many similar cases discussed in [this](#) series of posts, including many epileptics who had little loss of intellectual function or memory after they lost half of their brains in hemispherectomy operations to stop seizures. No such things should happen were it true that the brain is the source of the human mind and the storage place of memories.

The second interesting thing about the account of Marie Bottini is this part:

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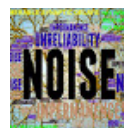


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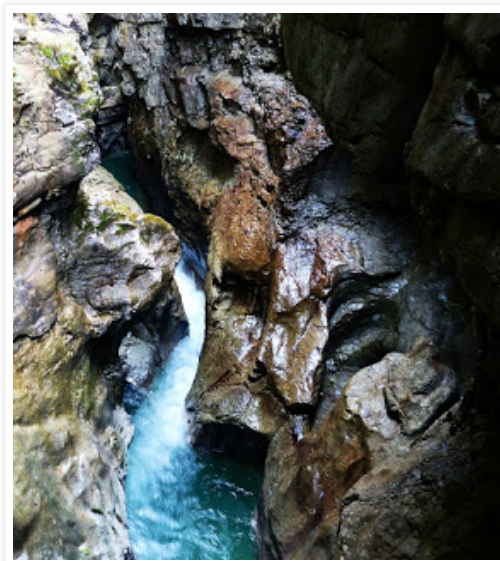
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"Having fallen into a ravine hollowed out by water, she took refuge in it and remained there until the following day. When she was asked if she had not been afraid during the night, she answered that she had not, and stated that toward the close of the day her father had appeared to her and had given her courage, telling her to wait patiently for her relatives, who would surely come to look for her the next day and would take very good care of her. Her father had been dead for three years. I told her that a person who had been dead for so long could not come back, but she stated with conviction that her father had come, and had protected her during the whole night."



On [page 304](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of an apparition of someone seen three years after the person's death:

"That was how I saw Palladia for the first time, three years after her death. I have often seen her since. Sometimes she appears to me three times in a week or twice on the same day; or even a month may go by without my seeing her. Palladia always appears unexpectedly, taking me by surprise at a time when I am least anticipating it. Never do I see her in my dreams. I see her both when I am alone and with a great many people. She always appears to me with the same serene expression in her eyes; sometimes with a slight smile. I always see her in the dark dress which she wore when she died before my eyes...The apparitions of Palladia last one, two, or three minutes, then gradually vanish and dissolve."

This is only part of a longer narrative that includes some corroboration from other people. On [page 307](#) Flammarion states the following:

"Plainly, if we should persist in seeing here only an

hallucination, we should be in error, for we should have to admit that (1) the narrator (2) his wife, who was at that time a stranger to him (3) his child, two years old, (4) his dog — we should have to admit, I say, that all these were the victims of hallucinations. We should still have to explain the first warning, regarding the cemetery. Everything, in this case, would lead us to decide in favor of real manifestations on the part of the deceased Palladia (who died at the age of fifteen) in the years 1873, 1875, 1876, 1879, 1885, and 1890— that is to say, two, three, six, twelve, and seventeen years after her death."

On [page 213-214](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: At the Moment of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of someone appearing decades after her death. A Thomas James Norbis tells us the following (the phrase "twenty-four hours before her death" refers to the mother's death):

"Sixty years ago a Mrs. Carleton died in Leitrim County. She was my mother's intimate friend, and a few days after her death she appeared to her in a dream, and told her that she would never again see her thus, save on one occasion which would be twenty-four hours before her death...My son-in-law heard a noise, awakened his wife, and asked her to go and see what was happening. She found my mother half-way out of bed, with an expression of horror stamped upon her features. They soothed her as best they could....Having sent for her granddaughter, she told her that Mrs. Carleton had at last, after an interval of fifty-six years, come to speak to her of her death, which was imminent, and that she would die the morning of the next day, at that same hour. She added that she had, as a precaution, taken a bath to make unnecessary the washing of her dead body. She then began to sink, little by little, and died the morning of March 4th, at the time she had specified. "

On [page 96 of Volume 2](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1905), we have the following account of an apparition seen several weeks after someone's death:

"Under the title Real Apparition of my Wife after her Death, Chemnitz, 1804, Dr. Woetzel published a book which produced a great sensation at the time. He narrates how one evening, some weeks after the death of his wife, being in his own room, there arose around him suddenly as it were a gust like a whirlwind, although the doors and windows were shut. The light was extinguished, and at the same time a little window in the alcove was opened. By the dim light that pervaded the room, Woetzel perceived the form of his own wife, who said to him in a feeble voice : 'Carl, I am immortal ; one day we shall see each other again.' "

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On [page 238](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: At the Moment of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of C. H. who had an apparition of her husband who died a month earlier:

"It was sixteen years ago, one month after my husband's death, which occurred in August, 1883. One night, when I had awakened, I heard the door of my room open; then I heard steps and saw my dead husband draw near my bed. He pressed my right side to him, very hard, without saying a single word. Astounded, I did not speak. Then he went away, and I leaned out of my bed to watch him go (this proves, absolutely that I was awake.) I heard steps again, and heard the door close once more. Long afterward, I still felt pain in my side."

Later [on the same page](#) we hear from another person:

"My mother and my sister — about a month after my mother's brother-in-law, our uncle, had died — were witnesses of an apparition of him. They saw this on different dates — my mother about a month after the death, and my sister fifteen days later still."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:39 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Sunday, May 31, 2020

When Apparitions Are Seen of Those Who Died Long Ago (Part 2)

Apparitions of the dead seem to occur most commonly close to the death of the person corresponding to the apparition. But it is not all that rare for someone to see an apparition of someone who died long ago. I discussed some cases of this type in my previous [post](#). In this post I will cite some more cases of this type.

On [page 234 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account:

"My mother died in February, 1882, and for three months after her death she used to come to me almost nightly, after I had retired to my bed-room. Sometimes she would come up to the bed and bend over me; at other times she would stand at the door and beckon to me."

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On page [285 of Volume 19](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have this account of an apparition of a mother who died 16 years ago:

"On June 5th, 1887, a Sunday evening between 11 and 12 at night, being awake, my name was called three times. I answered twice, thinking it was my uncle, 'Come in, Uncle George, I am awake,' but the third time I recognised the voice as that of my mother, who had been dead 16 years. I said, 'Mamma!' She then came round a screen near my bedside with two children in her arms, and placed them in my arms and put the bedclothes over them and said, 'Lucy, promise me to take care of them, for their mother is just dead.' I said, 'Yes, Mamma.' She repeated, 'Promise me to take care of them.' I replied, 'Yes, I promise you,' and I added, 'Oh, Mamma, stay and speak to me, I am so wretched.' She replied, 'Not yet, my child,' then she seemed to go round the screen again, and I remained, feeling the children to be still in my arms, and fell asleep. When I awoke there was nothing. Tuesday morning, June 7th, I received the news of my sister-in-law's death. She had given birth to a child three weeks before, which I did not know till after her death."

On the next page we are told this about the children in the vision or apparition: "The children were of ages corresponding to those of her sister-in-law's children : i.e., they seemed to be a little girl and a baby newly born."

On [page 213 of Volume 16](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we read of a mother who saw an apparition of her child long after the child died:

"It was almost the first anniversary of my beloved daughter's going from us, and my heart was very sad because a deep sense of my loss seemed to weigh upon me. I awoke, rather indolently, this April morning, about six o'clock, with my faculties particularly clear and acute. On looking up, my beloved child was looking down on me, and smiling. Her face was perfectly distinct, and radiant with life and love, and so

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beautiful! The word that always applied to her was vivid, and so she was as she looked down on me. Such perfect beauty and happiness I had never seen, and it was her dear self without a doubt. On her face was transcendent joy, and I knew she was alive and well and happy."

On [page 390-391 of Volume 15](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of someone seeing an apparition of someone who died long ago:

"As she sat there at work looking down, she saw a shadow of some thing that attracted her attention, and she thought someone had come in. She looked up and there, at a distance of about four feet, stood Mary Willard, her former classmate and friend. She was about four feet distant from Miss -----; was dressed in a cream white or light salmon-colored, soft, beautiful dress. She was dressed just as she was when Miss ---- - knew her, as to style and general appearance, her hair combed low on her forehead as the custom was.... She remained about ten minutes, and Miss ----- said she smiled and looked exceedingly pleasant; that they communicated, but not by thought,....So she watched carefully and Mary 'dimmed out' while she looked — faded from sight without moving from where she stood."

We are then told the following about this account:

"Curiously, Miss Frances E. Willard did not think to set down the fact that Mary, whose apparition was seen by Miss Milner, was dead. She had in fact died in 1862, about nineteen years before."

On [page 274-275 of Volume 14](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of Annie Halderman, who wrote repeatedly to a wounded soldier in Europe she had never seen. On the night she learned of the soldier's death, a month after it had occurred, she tried sending out "thought waves" to contact the soldier. She reported that on the same night she saw an apparition of a face, one that lasted for several minutes. She then states this:

"Unsolicited by me, came a month later a letter from his widow, saying she knew her husband would like for me to have a photograph of himself, might she send one ? Another month elapsed before my eager answer in the affirmative brought the much wished-for post-card photo. It was the face of the man I had seen!"

On [page 47 of Volume 1](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a dying boy who reported seeing the apparitions of his sister (who had died four years before his birth), his grandmother (who he had never

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- [dystopia](#) (1)
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seen), a Mrs. C. (who had died two years before), and someone named Roy who had died a year earlier. On [page 168-169](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of a very young child who reported seeing his dead grandfather eight months after his death.

On [pages 429-430 of Volume XI](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account by a mother who had two sons, one a baby and the the other a toddler of two years and seven months. The baby died. The mother said that the toddler kept saying for months after the baby's death that he could see the baby, and that the baby was calling him, and that the baby wanted him to join him. The toddler died two months after the baby. The diligent Society for Psychical Research obtained statements from witnesses corroborating the mother's claims.

On [page 238](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have this account of a wife who saw an apparition of her husband who had died a month ago:

"It was sixteen years ago, one month after my husband's death, which occurred in August, 1883. One night, when I had awakened, I heard the door of my room open; then I heard steps and saw my dead husband draw near my bed. He pressed my right side to him, very hard, without saying a single word. Astounded, I did not speak. Then he went away, and I leaned out of my bed to watch him go (this proves, absolutely that I was awake). I heard steps again, and heard the door close once more. Long afterward, I still felt pain in my side."

On [page 247](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the famous astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account of an apparition of someone that appeared three months after his death.

"Three months after my husband's death I had returned from the country, where I had spent a day; there I had hardly thought of my husband at all. I went to bed; it was dark in the room. With my eyes open, I saw my husband before me, in a suit of clothes which he had worn out a long time before. His expression was mild and calm; it was as though his face were lighted up. His features were not bright, but were clear and distinct and seemed unsubstantial. I asked myself if it were really he. He bent over and kissed me. 'This is an illusion,' I told myself. I also perceived an odor of menthol (when he was alive, he always had a stick of it with him, because he suffered from headaches). Again I thought that this could not be possible. Mechanically I passed my tongue over my lips and

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- [interstellar radio communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar travel](#) (8)
- [Iraq war](#) (1)
- [Kepler Space Telescope](#) (2)

tasted something slightly bitter; I did not know whether or not it was the taste of the menthol. 'Is that really you?' I asked. Slowly he vanished."

On [pages 239-240](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: At the Moment of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion we have an account of a Fernand who saw an apparition of his wife, about a month after her death:

"I saw my wife enter, pass rapidly between the bed and the mattress, cross the room, and kneel down before a little altar in a corner. She rose almost immediately and retraced her steps, going in the direction of the stairway. As she was passing near me I stretched out my arms toward her instinctively, as if to catch her dress, and cried out, 'Louloute!' the given name by which I usually called her. But, passing me rapidly, she avoided me. 'Peace, Fernand!' she said, in imperative tones, and at once she reached the stairs, where she disappeared."

In [pages 358-359](#) of Volume 1, Number 4 of the *Psychical Review* (May 1893), we have an account by Martha T. Hamilton who saw an apparition of her mother who died twelve years earlier:

"I saw standing beside my bed, near the foot, a shadowy form so like my mother, who had died about twelve years before, that I recognized it immediately, and yet with a young, beautiful, spiritualized face fairly beatific in expression — a remarkable contrast to the sad, worn, suffering look I had last seen her wear in life. The figure was clothed in flowing, filmy draperies, the neck and arms uncovered. The angelic beauty of the vision was beyond anything my imagination had ever been able to picture. While I perceived this form near me, I also noticed that it was transparent, that I could see directly through it articles of furniture just behind it, and the peculiarity of the matter excited my wonder even then. I called out, 'Mother, mother!' and extended my arms. The nurse answered, 'Your mother is not here; why do you call her? I am the only woman here.' I replied, 'No, no! my mother is here.' Then it seemed that I communicated with the vision without spoken words, and that it replied in the same mysterious way. I felt that I asked, though I did not speak the words, 'Mother, why are you here?' It replied: 'You have been very near death. I am your guardian, and have been watching over you, so that in case you passed on to the new life I would be here to guide you on the journey.' I said, 'I want to go with you now.' It answered, 'No, you are still to live on earth for a time.' Then the figure raised itself from the floor and floated towards the room door, which was closed. I felt it was leaving me, and cried out in agonizing tones, this time aloud, 'Mother, mother! take me with you!' Then the form turned its head over its

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shoulder, and, looking back at me with a gaze of intense longing and love, answered, 'Not yet, my child, not yet,' and, gently floating out and away through the door, disappeared from view, with the head still turned over the shoulder, and the same longing, loving expression on the face."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:22 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

When Apparitions Are Seen of Those Who Died Long Ago (Part 1)

I have written several previous posts on [apparition sightings](#). One group of seven posts dealt with 150+ cases in which some person did not know that another person had died, but saw an apparition, only to later learn that the person corresponding to the apparition had died at the same time. In three other posts I discussed cases in which multiple witnesses reported seeing the same apparition. But there's another category of apparition sightings I have not discussed: cases in which someone reports seeing an apparition of a person who died long ago. This will be the topic of today's post.

The site [www.archive.org](#) is a great place for finding entire books that can be read online. One of the many books on the paranormal you can read at [archive.org](#) is the voluminous *The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits* by Rosemary Ellen Guiley, which can be read [here](#). In the book we read countless claims about apparitions of those who died long ago. For example:

- "Ghostly civil war soldiers light campfires in the mountains around Harpers Ferry, especially on South Mountain." ([Page 222.](#))
- "The ghost of Sir Christopher Wren is said to be hurrying up and down the stairs of Hampton Court every February 26." ([Page 226.](#))
- "Edith Wharton's one-time country retreat in Lenox, Massachusetts, called The Mount, is said to be haunted by various ghostly figures, including Wharton, her husband Edward, and author Henry James." ([Page 326.](#))
- "During the latter part of the 19th century, numerous witnesses reported glimpsing Dolley Madison's ghost, clad in elegant fashions of the day, and smelling of lilacs, standing or dancing in the house." ([Page 350.](#))
- "The ghost of Dr. Samuel Mudd, who aided Booth during his flight, is said to haunt the doctor's farmhouse in Charles County, Maryland." ([Page 286.](#))

The article [here](#) at History.com mentions numerous alleged sightings of apparitions of those who died long ago, mentioning quite a few

- [near death experience](#) (21)
- [Neptune](#) (1)
- [neuroscience](#) (45)
- [neutrino](#) (2)
- [neutron](#) (1)
- [non-local consciousness](#) (1)
- [nonneuralism](#) (1)
- [nuclear energy](#) (2)
- [nuclear war](#) (4)
- [nucleosynthesis](#) (1)
- [observer selection effect](#) (1)
- [ocean acidification](#) (1)
- [optogenetics](#) (1)
- [orbs](#) (9)
- [origin of biological complexity](#) (15)
- [origin of flying animals](#) (2)
- [origin of language](#) (7)
- [origin of life](#) (34)
- [origin of man](#) (7)
- [origin of Mind](#) (13)
- [origin of sex](#) (1)
- [out-of-body experience](#) (2)
- [overblown hype](#) (27)
- [overconfidence](#) (6)
- [overconsumption](#) (9)
- [overpopulation](#) (8)
- [overshoot and collapse](#) (1)
- [p-hacking](#) (1)
- [P/2013 R3](#) (1)
- [paleontology](#) (2)
- [pandemic](#) (2)
- [panpsychism](#) (4)
- [panspermia](#) (4)
- [paradoxes](#) (1)
- [parallel universes](#) (3)
- [paranormal healing](#) (1)
- [paranormal phenomena](#) (99)
- [paraverse](#) (1)
- [pareidolia](#) (1)
- [particle collisions](#) (1)
- [particle physics](#) (14)
- [peak coal](#) (3)
- [peak oil](#) (5)
- [peer review](#) (1)
- [phantom events](#) (1)
- [philosophical zombie](#) (1)
- [philosophy](#) (33)
- [philosophy of mind](#) (19)
- [philosophy of science](#) (3)
- [photography](#) (2)
- [physicalism](#) (2)
- [physics](#) (20)
- [pigs](#) (1)
- [planetoids](#) (1)
- [plant intelligence](#) (1)
- [pollution](#) (4)

historical figures who supposedly were seen long after they died. We read quite a few statements such as these:

“Sightings of [Anne] Boleyn’s ghost have been reported at the tower as well as in various other locations, including her childhood home, Hever Castle, in Kent...Franklin’s ghost was seen near the library of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia....At the White House, everyone from first ladies to queens to prime ministers have reported seeing the ghost or feeling the presence of Honest Abe [Lincoln]....The spirit of Peter Stuyvesant, the city’s last Dutch colonial governor, has been seen stomping around the East Village on his wooden leg since shortly after his death in 1672. The author Mark Twain is believed to haunt the stairwell of his onetime Village apartment building, while the ghost of poet Dylan Thomas is said to sometimes occupy his usual corner table at the West Village’s White Horse Tavern, where he drank a fatal 18 shots of scotch in 1953. Perhaps the most famous New York ghost is that of Aaron Burr, who served as vice president under Thomas Jefferson but is best known for killing Alexander Hamilton in a duel in 1804. Burr’s ghost is said to roam the streets of his old neighborhood (also the West Village).”



Tower of London: a "hotspot" for ghost sightings?

But the article has relatively little value as evidence, because it does not quote specific people describing seeing an apparition of someone who died long ago. It is better from an evidence standpoint to have a single person publicly describing very exactly what he saw (in a non-anonymous way) than to have a dozen such “it is said that his ghost can be seen in this place” kind of claims, which could be just kind of urban legends.

Much better as evidence is an account I will now quote from Volume 2 of Frederic W. H. Myer's lengthy scholarly work “Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death.” The account can be read [here](#). The account was made by a F. G. of Boston, and we are told “Professor Royce and Dr. Hodgson vouch for the high character and good position of the informants,” which included this F.G. and his father. F.G. was interviewed by Dr. Hodgson, who called him “a first-class witness.” F.G's account is as follows:

- [polygamy](#) (1)
- [pork eating](#) (1)
- [post-scarcity economy](#) (1)
- [precognition](#) (12)
- [predictions](#) (4)
- [primordial fluctuations](#) (1)
- [primordial singularity](#) (1)
- [problem of evil](#) (5)
- [prognostication](#) (2)
- [programmed material universe](#) (8)
- [protein folding](#) (5)
- [psychokinesis](#) (5)
- [psychology experiments](#) (1)
- [psychometry](#) (2)
- [pulsars](#) (1)
- [qigong](#) (1)
- [quantum biology](#) (1)
- [quantum computer universe](#) (1)
- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
- [quantum mechanics](#) (6)
- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
- [quasars](#) (1)
- [racism](#) (1)
- [radical abundance](#) (1)
- [random universes](#) (2)
- [randomness](#) (2)
- [receptacle theory of consciousness](#) (3)
- [recolonization of Earth](#) (1)
- [recommended books](#) (11)
- [Reddit](#) (1)
- [reductionism](#) (2)
- [reincarnation](#) (3)
- [rejuvenation](#) (2)
- [remote viewing](#) (7)
- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
- [requirements underestimation](#) (4)
- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retrocognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
- [robots](#) (14)
- [rogue planet](#) (1)
- [savants](#) (4)
- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
- [science and religion](#) (1)
- [science fiction](#) (104)
- [Science fiction stories](#) (121)
- [science fiction story](#) (118)
- [science journalism](#) (5)
- [scientific consensus](#) (3)
- [scientific explanation](#) (2)
- [scientific explanations](#) (7)

“In 1867 my only sister, a young lady of eighteen years, died suddenly of cholera in St. Louis, Mo. My attachment for her was very strong, and the blow a severe one to me. A year or so after her death the writer became a commercial traveller, and it was in 1876, while on one of my Western trips, that the event occurred.... I suddenly became conscious that some one was sitting on my left, with one arm resting on the table. Quick as a flash I turned and distinctly saw the form of my dead sister, and for a brief second or so looked her squarely in the face; and so sure was I that it was she, that I sprang forward in delight, calling her by name, and, as I did so, the apparition instantly vanished. Naturally I was startled and dumbfounded, almost doubting my senses; but the cigar in my mouth, and pen in hand, with the ink still moist on my letter, I satisfied myself I had not been dreaming and was wide awake. I was near enough to touch her, had it been a physical possibility, and noted her features, expression, and details of dress, etc. She appeared as if alive. Her eyes looked kindly and perfectly natural into mine. Her skin was so life-like that I could see the glow or moisture on its surface, and, on the whole, there was no change in her appearance, otherwise than when alive.

Now comes the most remarkable confirmation of my statement, which cannot be doubted by those who know what I state actually occurred. This visitation, or whatever you may call it, so impressed me that I took the next train home, and in the presence of my parents and others I related what had occurred. My father, a man of rare good sense and very practical, was inclined to ridicule me, as he saw how earnestly I believed what I stated; but he, too, was amazed when later on I told them of a bright red line or scratch on the right-hand side of my sister's face, which I distinctly had seen. When I mentioned this my mother rose trembling to her feet and nearly fainted away, and as soon as she sufficiently recovered her self-possession, with tears streaming down her face, she exclaimed that I had indeed seen my sister, as no living mortal but herself was aware of that scratch, which she had accidentally made while doing some little act of kindness after my sister's death. She said she well remembered how pained she was to think she should have, unintentionally, marred the features of her dead daughter, and that, unknown to all, how she had carefully obliterated all traces of the slight scratch with the aid of powder, etc., and that she had never mentioned it to a human being from that day to this. In proof, neither my father nor any of our family had detected it, and positively were unaware of the incident, yet I saw the scratch as bright as if just made. So strangely impressed was my mother, that even after she had retired to rest she got up and dressed, came to me and told me she knew at least that I had seen my sister. A few weeks later my mother died, happy in her belief she would rejoin her favourite daughter in a better world.”

On [page 124 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following account:

"The Rev. John Douglas sees an apparition of a woman whom he knows at the door of her husband's house ; she passes him

- [scientific literature](#) (2)
- [scientific process](#) (7)
- [scientific speculation](#) (9)
- [scientific theories](#) (5)
- [scientific theory](#) (5)
- [scientist misconduct](#) (1)
- [scientist subculture](#) (1)
- [self](#) (1)
- [self-consciousness](#) (2)
- [sensationalism](#) (1)
- [SETI](#) (16)
- [sex](#) (1)
- [sexism](#) (1)
- [shopping](#) (1)
- [short radio bursts](#) (1)
- [simulated universe](#) (6)
- [Singularity](#) (8)
- [skepticism](#) (9)
- [slavery](#) (1)
- [social media](#) (1)
- [social security](#) (1)
- [social trends](#) (1)
- [sociology of science](#) (13)
- [software development](#) (5)
- [solar flares](#) (1)
- [solar system](#) (1)
- [soul](#) (4)
- [space colonization](#) (2)
- [space station](#) (2)
- [sports of the future](#) (1)
- [STARGATE program](#) (1)
- [starships](#) (1)
- [stem cells](#) (1)
- [string theory](#) (6)
- [subsidies](#) (1)
- [sun](#) (1)
- [supercomputer](#) (3)
- [superintelligence](#) (7)
- [supermen](#) (2)
- [supernovae](#) (2)
- [supersymmetry](#) (9)
- [surveillance state](#) (1)
- [synapse theory of memory](#) (7)
- [taxes](#) (1)
- [technological innovations](#) (1)
- [teleology](#) (4)
- [teleportation](#) (1)
- [theism](#) (3)
- [theories of mind](#) (7)
- [theories of the future](#) (3)
- [theories of the universe](#) (4)
- [theories of time](#) (3)
- [theories of truth](#) (1)
- [theory of accelerating progress](#) (1)
- [theory of consciousness](#) (8)

so close as to touch him, but he feels nothing, and she then vanishes. He hears next morning that she had died seven weeks before."

On page 41 of Volume 14 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, which can be read [here](#), we read this account by John H. Gower (written in August of 1908):

"Last Christmas the body of a man employed in one of our business buildings was found dead at the bottom of the elevator shaft. Recently an apparition answering the description of the dead man has been seen by three or four people at different times in the midnight hours in the engine room of the same building. Neither of the parties seeing the ghost knew the deceased at all, and it was therefore only by the description given that my friend, who runs the building, could place him. I carefully examined the engine room, and believe it would be almost impossible for a 'joker' to make his escape. I have closely questioned the percipients and am quite impressed by their declarations. They, at least, are quite convinced that they have seen the 'real thing.' "

On page 262 of Volume 19 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, which can be read [here](#), we read this account:

"The following case is one in which an apparition was twice seen by two independent witnesses in a place which the dead man had frequented during his life. The apparition was first seen about a year after death and again about three years later."

On page 66 of [Volume 25-26](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account, describing events in the middle of January:

"Mr. W. Kent, of Foley Road, Worcester, manager for many years of a large furniture shop here, left his work on Monday, after saying to his head salesman that he would die this week. He said that he was sleeping in the bed in which his wife died shortly before Christmas. He awakened in the night. 'When I woke up I saw my wife,' said Mr. Kent according to the salesman. 'She seemed quite happy. She beckoned to me, walked across the room and vanished. I knew what she meant.' Mr. Kent died a few days later."

On [page 703](#) of [Volume 7](#) of the Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account:

"It seems that her first experience, according to her own account, was an apparition of her grandfather when she was about eleven years old and a few months after his death. She saw him on the corner of a street in Huntington and was greatly frightened by the vision. She first heard his voice and turned around to see

- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
- [third man factor](#) (1)
- [time dilation](#) (1)
- [time travel](#) (3)
- [tininess of human knowledge](#) (16)
- [top-down theory of mind](#) (1)
- [Transhumanism](#) (3)
- [Twitter](#) (1)
- [types of universes](#) (2)
- [UFO](#) (9)
- [UFOs](#) (8)
- [universe](#) (8)
- [vacuum](#) (3)
- [vacuum catastrophe](#) (3)
- [vegetarianism](#) (2)
- [Venus](#) (1)
- [Venus colonization](#) (1)
- [videos](#) (1)
- [virtual reality](#) (2)
- [vitalism](#) (3)
- [von Neumann probes](#) (2)
- [water memory](#) (1)
- [wealth inequality](#) (4)
- [weddings](#) (1)
- [white holes](#) (1)
- [wormhole](#) (1)

as she would a living person. She then saw him standing before her after she turned about."

On [page 54 of Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read of a Mr. Johnson who saw "an apparition of a neighbour who he found next morning had died, unknown to him, seven weeks before."

On [page 180 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an astonishing account of a ghost appearing to a soldier, the ghost of a woman who died about a year ago.

"The figure leant down over me, and at first I felt much alarmed and shrank back. The figure said something, my name, I think, and added : 'I am the spirit of Mary Madden, and bespeak your attention.' Mary Madden had been the wife of a comrade of that name, now at the Depot of the 46th in Ireland, and she had died just about this time last year. I was a great friend of hers, and was beside her when she died, and put her into her coffin. She was dressed precisely the same as the figure then before me....I then felt rather reassured, and asked her what she wanted. She replied 'that I must communicate with her late husband, Madden, and severely warn him as to a certain evil course he was pursuing ; that he was to desist, and that, if he did not desist, his soul would be in immediate peril.' She then told me to warn him of some other matter, and finished by telling me, hy way of proof that she was Mrs. Madden's spirit, a circumstance and conversation unknown to anyone in the world, that took place between us before her death, and this I must decline repeating. It was proof to me that Mary Madden's spirit was then beside me, and nothing on earth will convince me to the contrary."

On page 474 of [Volume 7](#) of the Annals of Psychical Science (1908), a Francesco Graus gives this account:

"On November 25th, 1906, when quite awake and in a normal condition, she was sitting reading in her husband's dispensary, when the form of a young woman, dressed in black, apeared before her, and said : 'If you wish to do something to improve the health of your distant friend ' (this was an allusion to my brother, who was seriously ill at Naples, and who was unknown to the medium by name), ' send him the recipes I will dictate to you.'... Judging from the details of the apparition with which the medium furnished me, I came to the conclusion that the phantom was that of my sister-in-law, my sick brother's wife, who died in 1879, when about 30 years of age, and who was unknown, even by name, to the lady living in Capistrello. I wished, however, to make sure if my conjecture was correct, and so I enclosed in an envelope forty photographs of living and deceased ladies, placing among them the portrait of my deceased sister-in-law."

Francesco let the woman who had seen the apparition look at the set of forty photos. The woman identified one of the photos with the apparition:

"I was therefore much surprised when, after a short interval, I saw her coming quickly towards me with the portrait of my sister-in-law in her hand. She exclaimed : 'This is the mysterious lady I saw; she is, however, more beautiful than in the portrait.' From November, 1906, until now the phantom has frequently appeared and given much useful advice."

On page 3 of a [paper](#) on apparitions by three writers, we have the modern account below:

"About four months after her son Tommy had been tragically murdered, a woman was out walking Tommy's dog in the daytime and they were passing by the parking lot where Tommy had kept his Jeep when the dog began barking and pulling on the leash. Looking up, the woman saw a young man standing in a blue outfit about 30 feet away, although she could not see him clearly because she was not wearing her glasses. When she finally put them on, she recognized Tommy standing there on the sidewalk and smiling at her, wearing a blue outfit he had bought but never got to wear before he died. She immediately called out to him, and she and the dog began running toward him. But then, the image of Tommy seemed to slowly turn around and glide away, his feet being about an inch off the pavement. Despite how fast they ran, the woman and the dog could not catch up to him, even after pursuing him for three blocks."

On [page 247](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a V. Schwartz who saw an apparition of her husband who died long ago:

"My husband died five years ago....I went to bed; it was dark in the room. With my eyes open, I saw my husband before me, in a suit of clothes which he had worn out a long time before. His expression was mild and calm; it was as though his face were lighted up. His features were not bright, but were clear and distinct and seemed unsubstantial. I asked myself if it were really he. He bent over and kissed me. ... 'Is that really you?' I asked. Slowly he vanished."

On [page 254](#) of the same book, we have this account by a nun who spoke to a figure outdoors:

"Suddenly his features, the glasses, the collar, and the checked handkerchief reminded me of the father superior of our order, who had died six months before. Then I pointed to the road he must take, looking in that direction. When I turned toward him

again I did not see him: he had disappeared!"

On [page 256](#) of the same book, we have an account by someone looking after some sleeping orphans at an asylum or orphanage. The person reported seeing a "small cloud of light," and sensed being kind of telepathically told to stay in bed. After falling asleep, and waking up hours later, the person was told by one of the orphans, "My mother came to me last night."

On [page 259](#) of the same book, we read the following:

"My cousin Baroness de M---- was living in Paris, Some months after the death of her son Rene she was coming home, after visiting friends. It was broad daylight. She entered the drawing-room, her mind perfectly calm, and saw her son seated in an arm-chair before the fireplace. She fled, and never again entered that drawing-room."

On page 5 of the paper [here](#) by three authors (including Bryan Williams of the University of New Mexico), we have an account of a doctor who was at the deathbed of his mother-in-law, in a coma. He states the following:

"I was standing by her bed and no one else was in the room. She had an agonal inspiration, and at that moment I had a very clear picture of G. C. [her late husband] standing across from me with his arms outstretched, and he said, 'Flora, I've been waiting for you.' I did not really have to look to see that my mother-in-law had died, but the physician in me pushed me to verify that."

In part 2 and part 3 of this post, I will have many additional cases of those who saw an apparition of someone who died long ago.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [9:00 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [deathbed vision](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Early 20th Century Evidence for Paranormal Phenomena

Some accounts of the paranormal fit a pattern that is repeated over and over again in the literature of the paranormal, such as [accounts](#) when someone sees an apparition of someone he did not know was dead, only to soon learn the person had died at about the same time. But other accounts of the paranormal may have a kind of "once-in-a-blue-moon" sound to them. Let's look at some accounts of the paranormal that mostly sound like things that are very rarely reported.

On [pages 216 to 217](#) of Volume 26 of the Society for Psychical

Research, we have the testimony of a Georg Korf who witnessed a person who could do painting while in a trance, and who also seemed to be able to read minds very accurately in such a trance.

"While present last night at your sitting for trance-painting, this idea suddenly occurred to me : 'If Miss Gentes is clair-audient and clairvoyant, or even clair-sentient in this peculiar state, then I should like to get an answer to a question put.' I then wrote a test-word on a card, which I hid in my waist-coat-pocket. A few seconds later Miss Gentes paused in her painting-work and wrote on a sheet of paper put ready to her hand : 'The wings you may construct ; you yourself will live to fly ; much else besides, but not here.' Only then I showed those present the test-word I had written down, without their seeing it. The word I had written was 'wings,' and I had asked mentally : 'Shall I attain my purpose with my wings (living-machine)?' I thus got an exact [and] apposite reply to a question mentally put, which I herewith truthfully testify to."

This account of "just like reading a book" telepathy in a trance reminds me of [the account](#) of Dr. G. de Messimy who reported equally flawless telepathy in someone else who was in a trance.

On [pages 218 to 220](#) of Volume 26 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have a remarkable account regarding the same Miss Gentes. She suddenly stated on September 26, 1908 at 10:00 AM that her sister, thought by others to be healthy, had died, saying "My sister is dead." She then soon found out that her sister had indeed died in a railway accident, which had occurred on the same day as the premonition of her sister's death. The train accident is listed on a [wikipedia.org page](#) as having killed 21 on September 26, 1908.

On [page 343 of Volume 15](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account regarding the famous sinking of the Titanic. Shortly after the sinking of the Titanic, while she was busy with some other matter, a Mrs. Henderson saw a vision of a Bessie and Nina "crying and clinging to one another." She says, "They seemed to appear to me in a kind of mist." This Bessie and Nina were relatives of a Mr. Simpson who died in the Titanic sinking. This could be one of the rare cases in which someone reports a kind of telepathic apparition, caused not by the dead but by strong mental or emotional activity of the living. Two other such cases can be read [here](#), and a third case (that of J.M. Russell) can be read [here](#).

On [pages 38-39](#) of Volume 10 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a woman who saw a psychic. We read this:

"In February last I called upon Madame Zuleika without

making any appointment, but going on a sudden impulse which I put down to spirit guidance, having had many experiences of this before. She told me that my husband was going at once to South Africa, and that I should not see him before he went unless I made a special effort ; that he could not come and see me, as expected, but that I should have to go to him. She warned me that I must be careful to get all papers relating to business and also his will, before he left, as she saw that he would not live out the year. I demurred to this, giving her my reasons, but she said she was sure of the fact, as his 'span was run.' When she said this I felt intuitively that what she predicted would happen at the fall of the year, and pictured November as the time in my mind. Everything came to pass exactly as Madame Zuleika foretold. My husband got sudden orders to proceed to South Africa. I had to rise from a sick bed to go and meet him, and he, although enjoying excellent health until November, died after a short illness early in that month. These facts were told at the time to several relations in confidence, but not to my husband, and they can all bear witness to the exact veracity of this statement."



On [page 171](#) of the same volume, we read of a vision of a child dying by fire, one that tragically came true the next day:

"My husband, Mr. John Polley, gave me, on Thursday morning, May 9th, 1901, an account of a vision of the burning of a child that he had had at a seance at which he had been present on the previous evening of Wednesday, 8th May, 1901. It was not till the evening of Thursday, 9th May, 1901, that I or any other member of our family residing with us knew of the death, through burning, of our little nephew, John Frederick Polley. Mr. Frederick Sinnett visited us on the evening of Thursday, May 9th, 1901, and communicated the sad news to us for the first time."

On [pages 124-125](#) of Volume 13 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have a case of a psychic who described the exact status of a missing girl who had drowned. We read this:

"On Wednesday evening Mrs. Titus became entranced, and on being wakened by her husband said if he had let her alone she could have discovered by the morning where the girl was. That night she had two more trances, during which she told her husband that she saw the girl standing on a frost-covered log on the bridge, that her foot slipped and she fell backwards into the water, and that she was lying in a certain place by the bridge, head downwards between two logs, the body covered with mud and brush and one foot projecting with a new rubber shoe on....They told their story and persuaded Mr. Whitney to return to the bridge with them and order the diver to go down at the point indicated by Mrs. Titus. He did so and found the body just in the place and position described. The testimony of the diver, which, as well as that of Mr. Whitney, is given in full detail, shows that the body was found at a depth of about 18 feet in the water ; that the water was so dark that no one could see into it ; and that he himself could see nothing while in the water, but found the body entirely by feeling."

On [page 62](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of a man who apparently had an out-of-body experience at the time of a close brush with death:

"I had a disease of the heart, which is now cured, but which played me some nasty tricks. On one occasion, among others, I remained for a certain time plunged in a lethargy. I heard all my family talking around me, but I was not I : my self was beside me, standing, a white and fluid body; I saw the grief of those who were striving to revive me and I had this thought: 'Of what use is this miserable cast-off skin that they seek to bring to life again?' Nevertheless, perceiving their sadness, a great longing came over me to return to them, — a thing which happened. However, it seems to me that if I had wished it I could have remained in the Beyond; I saw the door to it half open, but cannot say what was behind."

On [page 146](#) of the book *On the Threshold of the Unseen* by Sir William Barrett we are told by a Hester Travers Smith that she used an ouija board and got a message referring to the death of a Hugh Lane in the sinking of a ship. She said she had no idea that Hugh was on a ship, that the message came on the day word arrived that the Luisitania had sunk, and that she soon found out that Hugh Lane died in the sinking of the Luisitania.

On [page 84](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of a

man who had a ghastly vision that soon proved true.

"All at once, at three o'clock in the morning, I sat up in my bed, wakened by a frightful nightmare. I saw my comrade, his skull open, breathing his last, bidding me farewell and embracing me. It was horrible! I can still see clearly that frightful vision. I got up terrified, dressed, and waited for day in the hope that the distraction of the coming and going in the streets would drive away the frightful nightmare that obsessed me. At seven o'clock in the morning I set out from my home. They were just coming to tell me that my lamented comrade, Theaubon, while visiting a friend, had, after events that do not concern us here, jumped out of a window and broken his skull, which had caused instant death."

On page 129 of [Volume 5](#) of the Annals of Psychological Science (1907), we have an account of the paranormal that is unlike any I have heard before:

"One day, in the fall of the year 1903, I went into the Roman History Class at school without having looked at my lesson. I was not in the habit of bluffing, so when the teacher called upon me to answer a question I rose to my feet and commenced to say: 'I do not know my lesson today,' when suddenly on the blackboard behind me appeared in red letters the answer to the question. I hesitated, and then read aloud what was written on the board. It proved to be the correct answer. The red letters did not look like chalk, but like ink. This occurred several times during the year but only in this one subject, Roman History."

On page 130 of [Volume 7](#) of the Annals of Psychological Science (1908), we read this fascinating and tragic tale:

"Mrs. Ella Cooper, his mother, who lives in Philadelphia, saw in a dream her son killed by a tramcar in New York. She woke in great agitation and was not able to close her eyes for several hours. When eventually she did go to sleep again the dream was repeated with such striking clearness that Mrs. Cooper, in great excitement, rose and took the first train to New York in order to assure herself that nothing had happened to her son. When she arrived there she took the tramcar from 23rd Street to Broadway. At the point where the tram crosses Seventh Avenue, Mrs. Cooper saw a crowd gathered round a man who had been knocked down by a car. She passed quickly through the crowd and recognized the injured man as her son. She knelt down beside him until he had recovered consciousness and could be removed to the hospital. There is very little hope that the unfortunate man will survive his injuries. Mrs. Cooper says that she has had similar premonitory warnings of former calamities."



Labels: [apparition](#), [ESP](#), [hypnotic trance](#), [life after death](#), [mediums](#), [near death experience](#), [out-of-body experience](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Friday, May 15, 2020

When Apparitions Serve as Announcements

The New York Times is at it again this week, continuing its long tradition of giving us what usually seems like the [worst coverage](#) of any major newspaper on the topic of paranormal phenomena. In the extremely rare cases in which the Times covers observations of the unexplained that it should be covering frequently, what we typically get in the Times is some text trying to persuade us there is no evidence for some phenomenon for which there is very much evidence. I won't link to their recent example of shame-the-witnesses [gaslighting](#) (on the topic of apparitions), but I will merely note that the New York Times is a paper that is very much "Pravda for materialists." For decades in the Soviet Union, communist dogmatists would open their daily copy of Pravda, which would always report that the world was working just exactly the way communist dogmatists expected it to be working. Such "party organ" tactics are also used by the New York Times, a paper that will typically use whatever information blocking, cherry picking, sophistry and distortion are needed so that a materialist reader will be assured that the world is working exactly as a materialist would expect.

In this week's article on apparitions, the Times resorts to the old murderer-lawyer's trick of complaining about a lack of "scientific evidence." Similarly, after hearing twenty witnesses say they saw the defendant strangle someone to death, the lawyer of the defendant might say that such evidence doesn't count because none of it is "scientific." Most of the things that we believe to be certainly true (such as the facts of history and the fact that our parents are our parents) are things we did not learn from scientific evidence. So when you have very good observational evidence for something, it is sophistry to be trying to exclude such evidence because it didn't derive from scientific instruments. After considering facts such as the fact that [18 percent of Americans](#) claim to have encountered an apparition or ghost, it is clear that the observational evidence for apparitions is very strong, far stronger than any evidence for quite a few never-observed things scientists like to talk about, such as dark matter and dark energy. In the seven posts below I have described or quoted about 150 cases of someone experiencing something like a suprising apparition of someone, only to soon learn that the corresponding person had died, usually at about the same time the apparition was seen. The seven posts are below:

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

[They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death](#)

[More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[Even More Cases of Veridical Apparitions](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. The links I will give will usually take you to the exact page of an account that I discuss or quote.

On [page 425 of Volume 15](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account:

"On December 4th, 1884, at half-past three in the morning, I was wide awake, and had just got up, when I saw very distinctly the apparition of my brother Joseph Bonnet, ensign in the 2nd regiment of Spahis, in garrison at Batna, in the province of Constantino (Algeria)....My brother kissed my forehead, I felt a cold shiver, and he said to me very distinctly, 'Good-bye, Angela, I am dead.' Very much touched and quite upset, I woke my husband at once, saying 'Joseph is dead ; he has just told me so.'...During the whole of that Thursday I was quite distracted. At nine o'clock in this evening we received a telegram ; before opening it I knew its contents. My brother had died at Kenchela (Algeria) at three o'clock in the morning."

On [page 91 of Volume 3](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account:

"On waking in broad daylight, I saw, like a shadowed reflection, a very long coffin stretching quite across the ceiling of my room, and as I lay gazing at it, and wondering at its length and whose it could foreshadow, my eyes fell on a shadowy figure of an absent nephew, with his back towards me, searching, as it were, in my book-shelf. That morning's post brought the news of his death in Australia. He was 6 foot 2 or 3 inches in height, and a book had been my last present to him on his leaving England, taken from that very bookcase."

On [page 54 of Volume 2](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account by the wife of a Mr. Bee:

"Mr. Bee then said. 'Well, a lady has passed me just now on the landing : she came out of the small bedroom and went downstairs ; she was dressed in a black bonnet and shawl.' I said. 'Nonsense, you must be mistaken.' He said. 'I am

certain I am not, and I can assure you I feel very queer.' I then went to ask mamma if there was anyone in the house, and she said no, only ourselves : still Mr. Bee insisted someone had passed him on the landing, although we tried to reason him out of it. In the morning, while we were in bed, we received a telegram stating that Mrs. Bee had died suddenly the night before. I said at once, 'Robert, that was your mother you saw saw last night.' He said it was. When we got to Gainsborough we asked what time she died : we were told about 10 minutes to 8, which was the exact time: also that she was taken suddenly ill in the street (wearing at the time a black bonnet and shawl), and died in 10 minutes."

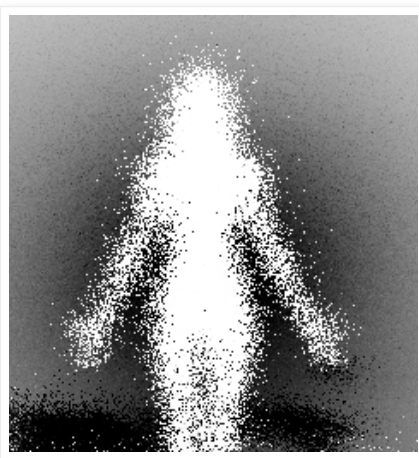
On page 124 of [Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account by a John Addington Symonds:

"I woke about dawn, and felt for my books upon a chair between the bed and the window; when I knew that I must turn my head the other way, and there between me and the door stood Dr. Macleane, dressed in a clergyman's black clothes. He bent his sallow face a little towards me and said, 'I am going a long way -- take care of my son.' While I was attending to him I suddenly saw the door in the place where Dr. Macleane had been. Dr. Macleane died that night-- (at what hour I cannot precisely say) at Clifton. My father, who was a great friend of his, was with him. I was not aware that he was more than usually ill. He was a chronic invalid."

On page 124-125 of [Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account by Captain G. F. Russell Colt:

"That night I awoke suddenly, and saw facing the window of my room by my bedside, surrounded by a light sort of phosphorescent mist as it were, my brother kneeling...I decided that it must be fancy, and the moonlight playing on a towel, or something out of place. But on looking up there he was again, looking lovingly, imploringly, and sadly at me. I tried again to speak, but found myself tongue-tied. I could not utter a sound. I sprang out of bed, glanced through the window, and saw that there was no moon, but it was very dark and raining hard, by the sound against the panes. I turned, and still saw poor Oliver. I shut my eyes, walked through it and reached the door of the room. As I turned the handle, before leaving the room, I looked once more back. The apparition turned round his head slowly and again looked anxiously and lovingly at me, and I saw then for the first time a wound on the right temple with a red stream from it. His face was of a waxy pale tint, but transparent-looking, and so was the reddish mark....I told others in the house, but when I told my father he ordered me

not to repeat such nonsense, and especially not to let my mother know. On the Monday following he received a note from Sir Alexander Milne to say that the Redan was stormed, but no particulars. I told my friend to let me know if he saw the name among the killed and wounded before me. About a fortnight later he came to my bedroom in his mother's house in Athole Crescent, in Edinburgh, with a very grave face. I said, 'I suppose it is to tell me the sad news I expect;' and he said, 'Yes.' Both the colonel of the regiment and one or two officers who saw the body confirmed the fact that the appearance was much according to my description, and the death wound was exactly where I had seen it. But none could say whether he actually died at the moment. His appearance, if so, must have been some hours after death, as he appeared to me a few minutes after two in the morning."



On the next few pages of the same volume are similar stories that I will pass over because they are not first-hand accounts. But on page 128 of the same volume ([Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research), we have an account that is first-hand because it was written by Sarah Jardine:

"In 1833, Sarah and Margaret Jardine, daughters of a barrister on the Western Circuit, were girls of about ten and twelve respectively. They lived with their parents in a house in the suburbs of London, and their grandfather and grandmother on the opposite side of the road. One night as the children lay in their four~post bed, sleeping as they did with a rush light in the room, Sarah saw her grandmother in her night-dress standing at the foot of the bed, looking at them with a pleased smile on her face. She moved round the bed, keeping her eyes constantly fixed upon the children, till she passed behind the curtain at the head of the bed on Sarah's side, and seemed to sit down on the chair that was placed there. Sarah raised herself up and drew back the curtain in order to speak to her, when, to her great surprise, she saw no one there. She was not at all frightened, and awoke her sister, saying, ~'Grandmamma is in the room.' They both got up and looked about for her, and finding that there really was

no one in the room, Margaret said that her sister must have been dreaming, and scolded her for awaking her. In the morning they were awoke by their father, who told them that a dreadful thing had happened, that their grandmamma had died in the course of the night."

On pages 128-129 of the same volume ([Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research), we have an account by a Mrs. Hunter mentioning a former friend "Z." who she hadn't heard from in years:

"Poor Z. was very far from my thoughts, when one night I had just got into bed. The fire burned brightly, and there was my usual night-light. I was placing my head on the pillows, when I beheld, close to the side of the bed, and on a level with it, Z. s head, and the same wistful look on his face which it had worn when we parted years before. Starting up, I cried out, 'What do you want?' I did not fear ; anger was my feeling. Slowly it retreated, and just as it disappeared in the shadow of the wall, a bright spark of light shone for a few seconds, and slowly expired. A few days after my sister wrote, 'You will have heard of poor Z.'s death, on his way to the South of France.' I had heard nothing about him for years. Special reasons prevented my inquiring particularly into the precise moment of his death."

On [pages 50-51 of Volume 1](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have the following story of a dying young girl (Edith) who apparently sees an apparition of a friend (Jennie) who recently died, thereby learning of her friend's death:

"In a neighboring city were two little girls, Jennie and Edith, one about eight years of age, and the other but a little older. They were schoolmates and intimate friends. In June, 1889, both were taken ill of diphtheria. At noon on Wednesday, Jennie died. Then the parents of Edith, and her physician as well, took particular pains to keep from her the fact that her little playmate was gone. They feared the effect of the knowledge on her own condition. To prove that they succeeded and that she did not know, it may be mentioned that on Saturday, June 8th, at noon, just before she became unconscious of all that was passing about her, she selected two of her photographs to be sent to Jennie, and also told her attendants to bid her goodbye. She died at half-past six o'clock on the evening of Saturday, June 8th. She had roused and bidden her friends goodbye, and was talking of dying, and seemed to have no fear. She appeared to see one and another, of the friends she knew were dead. So far it was like the common cases. But now suddenly, and with every appearance of surprise, she turned to her father, and exclaimed, 'Why, papa, I am going to take Jennie with me ! ' Then she added,

'Why, papa! Why, papa! You did not tell me that Jennie was here !' And immediately she reached out her arms as if in welcome, and said, 'O, Jennie, I'm so glad you are here.' "

On [pages 124-125 of Volume 7](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a woman being told by an apparition that her former lover has died:

"In the year 1865 I had a lover by the name of John A. Broadhead. Owing to several circumstances I was obliged to give him up although I was deeply attached to him. When he found that he could not marry me he left the town of Mount Morris, where I lived, but before he went he said to me, 'Mary I think this separation will kill me but if I die and a spirit can come back to earth I will come to you.' I replied 'Oh, no, don't, for that would frighten me dreadfully.' 'No it would not,' he answered, 'for I should come so calmly that you would not be at all afraid.' In 1868 I married George R. Howell, a presbyterian minister who knew all about my affection for John Broadhead....Suddenly I felt a pressure against my knee and limb as though some one had come very close to me and I looked up expecting to see one of my brothers but to my great surprise I saw my old lover, John Broadhead. standing there beside me. I felt greatly distressed for he lived in a distant city. I had not seen him since 1865, and I thought it an unwarrantable intrusion that he should enter my father's house thus unannounced....Before I had a chance to speak he raised his right hand and said, speaking very slowly and gently, 'Be very calm, Mary. I am what they call dead. I died in the west three weeks ago to-day.' Then lifting his left hand he pointed to a newspaper which lay at the other end of the sofa about three feet away from me. and said 'You will find my death in that paper.' Then without moving a muscle he vanished while I gazed at him... I managed to hitch along the sofa till I could reach the paper to which he had pointed. This turned out to be a copy of the New York Times that had never been taken out of the wrapper in which it had come through the mails. I tore it open and there, among the death notices I found this paragraph : 'Died in Burlington, Iowa, March 22nd, 1871, John A. Broadhead of this city in the 34th year of his age.' "

On [Page 21 of Volume 15](#) of the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, we read the following account:

"I had gone to bed and it was about a quarter of an hour after we had said goodnight to each other, my neighbor and I, when I perceived at first an indistinct form leaning on the bar of my bed ; this form became clearer and I recognized my foster brother ; his voice, which I knew well said to me: ' How are you Pierre? As for me, I am going.' I sat up in bed and called my friend ; he saw nothing, the form had disappeared. Four

days later I received a letter from my good old foster parents announcing the death of their son, Auguste. The date of the apparition coincides exactly with that of his death."

On [pages 242-243](#) of the book *Enigmas of Psychical Research* by James Hyslop we have an account by a woman who was courted unsuccessfully by a Mr. Akhurst:

"I felt a cold waft of air through the room and a feeling as if some one touched my shoulder; my hair seemed to bristle all over my head and I shuddered. Raising my eyes to the door (which faced me), I saw Mr. Akhurst standing in his shirt and trousers, looking at me, when he seemed to pass through the door. In the morning I mentioned it to my husband. I did not hear of Mr. Akhurst's death for some weeks after, when I found it corresponded with that of the apparition, and though my father knew of it before, he thought in my weak state of health it were better I should not be told."

On [page 244](#) of the book *Enigmas of Psychical Research* by James Hyslop we read this account:

"In returning and entering the corridor in which my room was, I saw, standing beyond my doorway, a figure. It looked misty, as if, had there been a light behind it, I should have seen through the mist. This misty figure was the likeness of a friend of ours whom I knew to have been on a voyage to Australia. I stood and looked at 'It.' I put my hand over my eyes and looked again. Still it was there. Then it seemed to pass away, how I cannot say....Next day I told my sister-in-law what I had seen. We laughed about my ghost. I was away from home three weeks. On my return, my mother showed me the account in a newspaper of our poor friend's body having been cast on shore at Orfordness and buried as an unknown castaway the very time I saw the figure."

On page 6 of [this](#) paper, we have an account of an apparition seen in a mirror:

"My mother lived in California and I lived in Wichita, Kansas. At 9:40 A.M. on February 17, I was sitting in my bedroom at my dressing room table, brushing my hair in front of the mirror. Suddenly the room was illuminated with the strangest light, one I can't fully describe. I then felt a rustle of wind across my shoulders, and a faint sound like the brushing of birds' wings. Then I looked in the mirror. My mother was standing behind my chair ... She just stood and smiled at me for a full thirty seconds. I finally said, 'Mom!' and rushed for her, but she disappeared, light and all. I was so upset by this that I shook for an hour. When my husband came home for lunch, I told him about it and got myself ready for a phone call

that mother was dead ... Sure enough, about one P.M. that same day, the call came that my mother was gone ...”

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:15 AM](#)

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Sunday, August 16, 2020

Still More Apparitions Seen by Multiple Observers

In four previous posts I discussed cases in which multiple witnesses reported seeing the same apparition. The four posts are below:

- [When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 Cases](#)
- [When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 More Cases](#)
- [More Apparitions Seen by Multiple Observers](#)
- [Many an Apparition Is Seen by More Than One](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. I will give links that will usually take you directly to the exact page I am quoting or citing. Such cases help to discredit all claims that apparitions are seen merely because of hallucination, there being no clear reason why multiple witnesses would have a hallucination of the same person.

The Bangor Daily News reminds us of an apparition seen by multiple witnesses long ago. It [states](#) the following:

"In the winter of 1799, in the small coastal town of Sullivan, Maine, began what is known as the first documented haunting in the United States. During this series of hauntings, numerous residents of the town claimed they saw and heard the ghost of Nelly Butler, a young woman who died three years before."



At [this](#) link you can read "Immortality Proved by the Testimony of Sense" by Abraham Cummings, which has many of the testimonies in this case, particularly following page 41, where we have dated witness statements from quite a few people who give their names. On page 31 we read this summary about the same apparition:



"Sometimes she appeared to two or three ; then to five or six ; then to ten or twelve ; again to twenty, and once to more than forty witnesses. She appeared in several apartments of Mr. Blaisdel's house, and several times in the cellar. She also appeared at other houses, and several times in the open field, as already observed. There, white as the light, she moved like a cloud above the ground in personal form and magnitude, in the presence of more than forty people. She tarried with them till after day-light, and vanished : not because she was afraid of the sun : for she had then several times appeared when the sun was shining."

On [page 117 of Volume 12](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we read an account of two brothers who both saw a ghost claiming to be a dead person. We are told that after it delivered very specific information, "the apparition vanished." Part of the information was later confirmed. [Page 124](#) refers to "the apparition having been seen by both the brothers collectively."

On [page 452 of Volume 21](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for

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[A Critique of Carroll's "Big Picture"](#)

Psychical Research, we read an account of the appearance of an apparition seen by multiple observers. One of the observers was the famous Daniel Dunglas Home, a person connected with a long series of reports of paranormal occurrences reported by many reliable witnesses. Here is the account:

"I will therefore mention a case when the supposed 'spirit form' was seen by several sitters. On the evening of February 9th, 1869, Lord Adare, Captain Gerard Smith, and Dr. Gully of Malvern assembled together with Home in Lord Adare's rooms in London. The company were sitting in a small room the objects in which were made dimly visible by the faint light that came in from the window near which Home was 'impressed' to place himself, saying: 'Sacha will try and make herself visible to you.' And then another form beside his own—that of his late wife—grew into distinctness. Her form (wrote Lord Adare the next day) gradually became apparent to us : she moved close to Home and kissed him. She stood beside him against the window intercepting the light as a solid body, and appeared fully as material as Home himself: no one could have told which was the mortal body and which the spirit. It was too dark, however, to distinguish features. I could see that she had her full face turned towards us, and that either her hair was parted in the middle and flowed down her shoulders, or that she had on what appeared to be a veil. At Lord Adare's request Captain Gerard Smith wrote to him certifying that he had also seen the 'spirit-form,' and describing the apparition as follows : 'Home rose and stood at the window with his right arm extended, and the spirit seemed to sweep down, until it rested with both hands on his outstretched arm, looking up into his face. From the position in which I sat the profile of the face was perfectly visible to me, and when the two faces approached each other to kiss, there was no apparent difference in the degree of density of the two figures.' "

On [page 310 of Volume 9](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we read an account of the appearance of a semi-transparent apparition seen by multiple observers. The account is by Mrs. Crookes, wife of the world-class scientist Sir William Crookes. She states this:

"The accordion was immediately taken from his hand by a cloudy appearance, which soon seemed to condense into a distinct human form, clothed in a filmy drapery, standing near Mr. Home between the two rooms. The accordion began to play (I do not remember whether on this occasion thei'e was any recognised melody), and the figure gradually advanced towards me till it almost touched me, playing continuously. It was semi-transparent, and I could see the sitters through it all the time. Mr. Home remained near the sliding doors. As the figure approached I felt an intense cold, getting stronger as it got nearer, and as it was giving me the accordion I could not help screaming. The figure immediately seemed to sink into the floor to the waist, leaving only the head and shoulders visible, still playing the accordion, which was then about a foot oS the floor. Mr. Home and my husband came to me at once, and I have no clear recollection of what then occurred, except that the accordion did not cease playing immediately. Mr. Serjeant Cox was rather angry at my want of nerve, and exclaimed : 'Mrs. Crookes, you have spoilt the finest manifestation we have ever had.' I have always regretted that my want of presence of mind brought the phenomena to so abrupt a termination."

On page 121-122 of [Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account of an



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apparition seen by multiple observers:

"In 1739 Mrs. Birkbeck, wife of William Birkbeck, banker, of Settle, and a member of the Society of Friends, was taken ill and died at Cockermouth, while returning from a journey to Scotland, which she had undertaken alone -her husband and three children, aged seven, five, and four years respectively, remaining at Settle...One morning, between seven and eight o'clock, the relation to whom the care of the children at Settle had been entrusted, and who kept a minute journal of all that concerned them, went into their hedroom as usual, and found them all sitting up in their beds in great excitement and delight. 'Mamma has been here!' they cried...That same morning as their mother lay on her dying bed at Cockermouth, she said, 'I should be ready to go if I could just see my children.' She then closed her eyes, to reopen them, as they thought, no more. But after ten minutes of perfect stillness she looked up brightly and said, 'I am ready now; I have been wth my children;' and then at once peacefully passed away. When the notes taken at the two places were compared, the day, hour, and minutes were the same."

On page 129 of [Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of an apparition seen by three observers within about a day of someone's death. On page 132 of the same volume, we also have what seems to be a case of apparition seen by multiple observers.

A modern sighting often called an apparition was the sighting of a mysterious figure atop a church in Zeitoun, Egypt in 1968 to 1971. A mysterious luminous figure was seen by countless thousands of people at such a location.

On [page 353 of Volume 10](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we are told this by a Miss R.N. :

"In July of 1885, I was staying in the country, and was reading in the garden (Helen's Babies) one day, when, suddenly looking up, I saw my aunt standing in front of me, she having died in the October previous. In a moment or two she passed on out of my sight."

On the same page, we are told the apparition was seen by other witnesses:

"The apparition was first seen in 1884, —soon after the aunt's death, —collectively by C, A. and a friend, Miss G., as stated in their accounts, and soon afterwards on the stairs by Miss G. and A. N. together. It was seen later by a cousin, Miss S. ; by a servant who had formerly been the deceased lady's housemaid, and afterwards by Miss R.N., as she relates."



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- [The Gigantic Missing Link of Biological Life](#)
- [Cosmic Fine-Tuning Visualized](#)
- [If Mankind Were To Perish, What Would Be Its Epitaph?](#)
- [Why Machines Will Not Soon Be as Intelligent as Men](#)
- [Cloud Computing and the Concept of Non-local Consciousness](#)
- [There Is No Plausible Explanation For How Brains Can Store Very Long-Term Memory](#)
- [The Top 6 Problems With Using a Multiverse to Explain Cosmic Fitness](#)
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Featured Post

[The Navigation Argument Against the Idea That Your Brain Stores All Your Memories](#)

Neurologists like to assume that all your memories are stored in your brain. But there are actually quite a few reasons for doubting this u...

Cue Storage Area		Visual Storage Area
White Bread	3452333	
White Castle	6493345	
White House	3403333	
White Picket Fence	9345333	

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On [page 228](#) of *Death and Its Mystery: After Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account by a Miss Lister who saw an apparition of her friend's dead husband, and who said the friend reported seeing the apparition of her husband a few minutes later. On the [next page](#) we have an account of children and a wife all saying they saw an apparition of their dead father.

On [pages 141-144](#) of Volume 2 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of an apparition seen by three different persons on three different occasions. The apparition was of a woman whose head and shoulders were wrapped in a cloak or shawl. The first witness reported the apparition "gradually vanished...I mean she grew by degrees transparent."

On [pages 283-284](#) of the book *Apparitions and Thought Transference* by Frank Podmore, we have an account of an apparition seen by both a father and his son, on the same day (July 11, 1879) that the father's father died:

"I entered the house a quarter to seven o'clock, Friday evening, July 11th, 1879. I was very tired, having been receiving and paying for staves all day, and it being an exceedingly sultry evening, I lay down by Artie on the carpet, and entered into conversation with my wife — not, however, in regard to my parents, Artie, as usually was the case, came and lay down with his little head upon my left arm, when all at once he exclaimed, 'Papa! papa ! Grandpa I' I cast my eyes towards the ceiling, or opened my eyes, I am not sure which, when, between me and the joists (it was an old-fashioned log-cabin), I saw the face of my father as plainly as ever I saw him in my life. He appeared to me to be very pale, and looked sad, as I had seen him upon my last visit to him three months previous. I immediately spoke to my wife, who was sitting within a few feet of me, and said, 'Clara, there is something wrong at home ; father is either dead or very sick.' She tried to persuade me that it was my imagination, but I could not help feeling that something was wrong. Being very tired, we soon after retired, and about ten o'clock Artie woke me up repeating, 'Papa, grandpa is here.'"

On [pages 74 to 75](#) of the 17th century book *Miscellanies* by John Aubrey, we have a tale that makes a heck of an interesting yarn. We are told that in Florence a Caisho Burroughes began a passionate affair with a beautiful courtesan who was the mistress of the Grand Duke, and that when the Grand Duke found out about it, the threatened Caisho fled to England. We are told that the courtesan killed herself partially from sorrow about the departure of Caisho. We are told that afterwards the ghost of the courtesan repeatedly appeared to Caisho, and was also seen by two other males who were in bed with the handsome Caisho.

On [page 82](#) of the same book we are told that Henry Jacob died at Dr. Jacob's house, and that a week later Dr. Jacob saw an apparition of Henry Jacob, one that was also seen by his cook-maid. On [pages 76-77](#) of the same book, we are told that a Mr. Mohun appeared to his mistress at the time of his murder in another location, and that his phantom also appeared to his sister and her maid about the same time he was killed.

On [page 39 of Volume 19](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read, "The most remarkable of the experiences which have been reported to us was an apparition of Captain Bowyer-Bower which was seen by his half-sister Mrs.

Labels

- [3D printing](#) (1)
- [abundance](#) (1)
- [acupuncture](#) (1)
- [age of mankind](#) (1)
- [age of universe](#) (3)
- [aging](#) (1)
- [alien attack](#) (1)
- [alien computer simulation](#) (4)
- [alien spaceships](#) (1)
- [alien visitation](#) (1)
- [alternate universe](#) (1)
- [android](#) (1)
- [anecdotal evidence](#) (2)
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- [artificial intelligence](#) (5)
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- [Boltzmann brain](#) (2)
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- [c-value paradox](#) (1)
- [Cambrian Explosion](#) (5)
- [car culture](#) (1)
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- [certainty](#) (1)
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- [complexity](#) (1)
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- [computer simulations](#) (3)

Spearman in India, within a few hours of his death." On [page 41-42](#) we have this account by Dorothy C. Spearman:

"My brother appeared to me on the 19th March, 1917....I saw my brother Eldred W Bowyer-Bower. Thinking he was alive and had been sent out to India, I was simply delighted to see him, and turned round quickly to put baby in a safe place on the bed, so that I could go on talking to my brother; then turned again and put my hand out to him, when I found he was not there. I thought he is only joking, so I called him and looked everywhere I could think of looking. It was only when I could not find him I became very frightened and the awful fear that he might be dead."

On [page 222 of Volume 27](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we are told the following about the same individual:

"An example of such test-proof evidence to my mind, if we agree (as Mr Saltmarsh appears implicitly not to agree) that latency is hardly likely to endure for six months, is the Bowyer-Bower case (Proceedings, xxxiii. 167). Captain Bower's apparition was seen not only at the time of his sudden violent death, but also six months later (by his mother and again by his fiancée). The details of development and behaviour are strikingly suggestive of the operation of an external intelligence."

Tracing the reference made in the quote above, I find that on [page 172 of Volume 33](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research we have this quote by a relative of this Captain Bowyer-Bower, concerning her small daughter:

"One morning while I was still in bed, about 9.15, she came to my room and said, 'Uncle Alley Boy is downstairs,' and although I told her he was in France, she insisted that she had seen him. Later in the day I happened to be writing to my mother and mentioned this, not because I thought much about it, but to show that Betty still thought and spoke of her imcle of whom she was very fond. A few days afterwards we found that the date my brother was missing was the date on my letter."

We are told on [page 172 of this volume](#) that "Alley Boy" was a "pet name" for this Eldred W. Bowyer-Bower. So apparently we have an apparition of this person appearing to two people at the time of his death or disappearance. A third person mentioned on page 173 had a "certain and awful feeling...that he was killed" before learning of his death. On [page 174](#) we have an account of an apparition of this Eldred W. Bowyer-Bower appearing months later. His mother Mrs. Bowyer-Bower narrates it as follows:

"I watched, not at all nervously, and something like a crumpled filmy piece of chiffon unfolded and the beautiful wavy top of Eldred's head appeared, a few seconds and his forehead and broad, beautiful brow appeared, still it waited and his lovely blue eyes came, but no mischievous twinkle, but a great intensity. It all shook and quivered, then his nose came. More waiting and quivering and then his tiny little moustache and mouth. At this point he turned his head very shghtly and looked right into my face, and moistened his lips slightly with his tongue. I kept quite quiet, but it quivered and shook so much and no chin came, and in my anxiety I put out my hands and said : 'Eldred, I see you,' and it all flickered quite out, light and all."

- [conformity](#) (1)
- [consciousness](#) (36)
- [consumption](#) (5)
- [coronavirus](#) (7)
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- [cosmic background radiation](#) (4)
- [cosmic destiny](#) (2)
- [cosmic evolution](#) (2)
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- [cosmic layers](#) (1)
- [cosmic life-force](#) (1)
- [cosmic message](#) (1)
- [cosmic mysteries](#) (10)
- [cosmic religion](#) (1)
- [cosmic structure](#) (3)
- [cosmic wonder](#) (1)
- [cosmological constant](#) (4)
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- [definition of religion](#) (1)
- [definition of science](#) (1)
- [depression](#) (1)
- [Detroit](#) (1)
- [diet](#) (1)
- [disasters](#) (1)
- [disease prevention](#) (1)
- [disintegrating asteroid](#) (1)
- [DNA](#) (11)
- [dogs](#) (1)
- [double standards in science](#) (3)
- [doubt](#) (1)
- [dowsing](#) (1)
- [dreams](#) (7)
- [drones](#) (1)
- [dwarf galaxies](#) (1)
- [dwarf galaxy rotation anomaly](#) (1)
- [dystopia](#) (1)
- [early habitability epoch](#) (1)
- [early Universe](#) (2)
- [easy life hypothesis](#) (3)
- [education](#) (3)
- [elections](#) (1)
- [electromagnetic pulse attack](#) (1)
- [electromagnetism](#) (4)
- [electrons](#) (3)
- [EmDrive](#) (1)
- [emergence](#) (1)
- [EMP](#) (1)
- [end of the world](#) (5)
- [energy crisis](#) (3)
- [energy forecast](#) (1)
- [energy production](#) (2)
- [engrams](#) (12)
- [entropy](#) (3)
- [environmental degradation](#) (5)

On page 175 of the same [Proceedings](#), we have an account by the fiancée of this Eldred, who tells us the following happened months after his death:

"Afterwards I woke up and looked around and saw Eldred on the bed beside me, he was wearing his blue suit. I sat up and started talking to him....I then tried to touch him, but my hand went through him, and like a fool I started to cry, and he disappeared."

So we can see why the writer quoted earlier called this case "test-proof evidences": the quotes above establish that this apparition of Eldred W. Bowyer-Bower was seen by four different persons in different places: his sister, his mother, his fiancée and a small child.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [6:55 AM](#)

1 comment:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Sunday, July 19, 2020

They Also Seemed to Know of Deaths They Should Not Have Known Of

In my 2014 [post](#) "They Seemed to Know of Deaths They Should Not Have Known Of," I summarized twenty cases of people who reported seeing an apparition or vision of someone who had died, but whose death was unknown to the person seeing the apparition or vision. I was summarizing cases discussed in a paper by Bruce Greyson. More than 175 additional cases of this type can be found in my posts below (most involving an apparition sighting at about the same time as someone died, often on the same day and hour):

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

[They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death](#)

[More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[Even More Cases of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[When Apparitions Serve as Announcements](#)

[Still More Cases of Veridical Apparitions](#)

Below are some additional cases of this type.

On page 72 of [Volume 1 \(Number 1\)](#) of the *Psychical Review* (1892), we read an account of a woman who "ghost-learned" of another woman's death at about 9:50 PM on October 4:

"It was now October 4...They were both awakened out of their sleep by their mother, who came and told them that their Aunt Melinda was dead, for she had just seen her standing in the doorway, in her nightdress. They noted the time, and it was 9.50 p. m. In those days there were no telegraphs. The mails, even, were very irregular, and the post-office was four miles away. They had heard nothing to make them think that their aunt was any nearer death than she had been for a long time. Three days after, i. e., on October 7, news came that Mrs. C. had passed away on the evening of October 4, after being dressed for bed. At 9.30 they had left her for a few moments,

- [epigenetics](#) (1)
- [ESP](#) (38)
- [esthetics](#) (1)
- [Ethics](#) (7)
- [Europa](#) (2)
- [evolution](#) (55)
- [experts](#) (10)
- [extent of paranormal beliefs](#) (1)
- [extrasolar planets](#) (7)
- [extraterrestrial life](#) (42)
- [extraterrestrials](#) (31)
- [faint young sun paradox](#) (2)
- [fast radio bursts](#) (1)
- [fate of the universe](#) (1)
- [Fermi's paradox](#) (7)
- [fine-tuned universe](#) (7)
- [Flynn effect](#) (1)
- [forecasting](#) (1)
- [Fourth Dimension](#) (1)
- [free will](#) (3)
- [fundamental constants](#) (5)
- [fundamental forces](#) (4)
- [funerals](#) (1)
- [future contrasts](#) (2)
- [future entertainment](#) (2)
- [future eras](#) (1)
- [future happiness](#) (2)
- [future movies](#) (1)
- [future of consciousness](#) (2)
- [future of man](#) (18)
- [future problems](#) (4)
- [future risks](#) (2)
- [future technology](#) (11)
- [future weapons](#) (1)
- [futurology](#) (2)
- [galactic empire](#) (1)
- [galaxies](#) (5)
- [galaxy formation](#) (6)
- [galaxy spin anomaly](#) (1)
- [gamma ray bursts](#) (2)
- [genes](#) (10)
- [genetic engineering](#) (11)
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- [ghosts](#) (28)
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- [global consciousness project](#) (2)
- [global food supply](#) (5)
- [global warming](#) (22)
- [GMO](#) (3)
- [God](#) (2)
- [Great Filter](#) (2)
- [grey goo](#) (1)
- [groupthink](#) (5)
- [habitable zone](#) (1)
- [hallucinogenic drugs](#) (1)
- [happiness](#) (1)
- [heart attack risk](#) (1)
- [heritability of intelligence](#) (1)
- [hierarchy problem](#) (1)
- [Higgs mass](#) (1)
- [higher dimension](#) (1)
- [holographs](#) (1)
- [homeopathy](#) (2)
- [homochirality](#) (2)
- [homosexuality](#) (2)
- [human body plan](#) (1)
- [human extinction](#) (2)
- [human history](#) (1)
- [human intelligence](#) (4)
- [human knowledge](#) (1)

sitting comfortably in her chair. At 10 they returned and found her dead, and they said she looked as though she had been dead for some minutes. Of course when they sent this news, they knew nothing of the fact that, by some subtle express, they had been anticipated by at least three days."

On page 78 of the same volume is a similar story of a veridical apparition. On [page 84](#) of the book *Hidden Channels of the Mind* by Louisa Rhine, we read an account of someone who learned of the death of his friend by seeing an apparition:

"One day while I was shaving, Earl stood before me in his army uniform and looked me over for a few minutes and then disappeared. I informed my parents at the time that I had seen him and that I felt he had been killed and had returned to me. Several weeks later I found out that he had been killed in action at the time he appeared to me."

On [page 87](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of a man who was suprised to see an apparition of his brother-in-law:

"I saw on the other side of it my brother-in-law, to whom I was greatly attached....He smiled and waved to me. I told my comrade to look at the apparition, but he saw nothing, and when I wished to fix my gaze upon it again it had disappeared. Greatly depressed, I went up to my uncle's home and told him what I had just seen. He pulled out his watch: it was ten minutes past one. Two days afterward I got a letter from my father, telling me of the death of my brother-in-law, which had occurred at precisely that time."

On [page 60 of Volume 11](#) of the of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account of a veridical apparition, narrated by the father of Edgardo:

"I found Edgardo complaining of a headache. It was the beginning of a malady that sometimes assumed the character of a pernicious fever, sometimes that of a typhoid, but which really presented all the symptoms of the bubonic plague and terminated fatally after nine days of suffering. Up to the last moments my son was conscious. He took leave of his mother and me about an hour before he expired, and he again embraced us a few minutes before the end. The death agony had not yet ceased when Senr. Franklin, a neighbour of ours, with whom, however, we were not on very intimate terms, rushed into our house exclaiming, 'I am not a spiritist, Senr. Joppert, but your son came to take leave of me !' Senr. Franklin remained with us and was present at the death of my son, which took place at 7 o'clock in the morning of August 10th, 1901. Edgardo had not yet completed his twentieth year. We afterwards heard that at the hour of his death Senr. Lage's daughter Deolinda also received a warning. She was yet in her room, and having to attend to a child, lighted a candle. The candle, however, went out of its own accord and she felt both her hands grasped."

On [page 213-page 214](#) of Volume 4 of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account of a veridical apparition:

"I have noted down the remarkable incident I mentioned. The time of its occurrence was in the early part of July, 1885, between 1 and 2 in the morning. I was wide awake, not having slept at all, when all of a sudden I was startled by a bright light, and I saw at my bedside a tall figure, and distinctly

- [hurricanes](#) (1)
- [hypermnnesia](#) (1)
- [hyperthymesia](#) (2)
- [hypnotic trance](#) (8)
- [idealism](#) (3)
- [ideological regimes](#) (1)
- [immortality](#) (3)
- [inflation theory](#) (6)
- [information](#) (1)
- [integrated information theory](#) (1)
- [interplanetary travel](#) (1)
- [interstellar colonization](#) (3)
- [interstellar communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar radio communication](#) (1)
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- [Iraq war](#) (1)
- [Kepler Space Telescope](#) (2)
- [Kepler-78b](#) (1)
- [ketamine](#) (1)
- [lambda cold dark matter theory](#) (5)
- [language acquisition](#) (1)
- [Large Hadron Collider](#) (2)
- [laws of nature](#) (5)
- [LCDM theory](#) (1)
- [leisure](#) (1)
- [levitation](#) (4)
- [life after death](#) (44)
- [life extension](#) (8)
- [Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment](#) (1)
- [Mad Scientist](#) (1)
- [Many Worlds theory](#) (6)
- [Mars](#) (11)
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- [Mars strange objects](#) (8)
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- [mathematical universe hypothesis](#) (1)
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- [meta-analysis](#) (1)
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- [methodological naturalism](#) (1)
- [METI](#) (1)
- [mind](#) (7)
- [mind linking](#) (1)
- [mind over matter](#) (2)
- [mind uploading](#) (5)
- [mind-reading](#) (4)
- [miracles](#) (1)
- [missing heritability problem](#) (1)
- [molecular biology](#) (2)
- [MOND](#) (1)
- [morphic gravitation](#) (1)
- [morphogenesis](#) (8)
- [multiverse](#) (21)
- [mutations](#) (1)
- [mystery of existence](#) (1)
- [nanotechnology](#) (1)
- [natural history](#) (3)

recognised the face of a valued old friend who resided many miles from my home. He was earnestly gazing at me, and on vanishing from my sight the room became dark as before. My sister, who occupied the next room, on hearing me make an exclamation, came in and found me striking a light, when I told her whom I had seen. Strange to say we received an early communication from a member of his family acquainting us that our dear old friend had passed away at the very time he appeared to me."

On [page 85-86](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of another veridical apparition. On May 31, 1895 a soldier died in an accident. On the same day his very young goddaughter reported seeing the soldier in front of her. Her mother thought it was just childish imagination, but soon received a telegram telling her that the soldier had died on the same day.

In Volume 7 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, [page 33](#), we are given the details of the drowning death of Edmund Dunn, brother of Agnes Paquet, involving a rope called a towline: "While adjusting the towline Mr. Dunn fell or was thrown overboard by the towline, and drowned." Here is the narrative given by Agnes Paquet of what she saw on the same morning:

"I went into the pantry, took down the tea canister, and as I turned around my brother Edmund — or his exact image — stood before me and only a few feet away. The apparition stood with back toward me, or, rather, partially so, and was in the act of falling forward — away from me — seemingly impelled by two ropes or a loop of rope drawing against his legs. The vision lasted but a moment, disappearing over a low railing or bulwark, but was very distinct. I dropped the tea, clasped my hands to my face, and exclaimed, 'My God! Ed. is drowned.'"

On the [next page](#) we read this comment on the case by Henry Sidgwick: "Here Mrs. Paquet not only had a vivid impression of her brother within a few hours of his death — not only knew that he was dead — but saw a more or less accurate representation of the scene of his death."

On pages 221-224 of the book *Psychical Research* by Sir William Barrett, we read about the trance writings of Stainton Moses, who while in a trance would produce "spirit writings" in handwriting far different from his own. We read this on [page 224](#):

"There is evidence in Mr. Moses' script of supernormal knowledge. In three cases he had distinct prevision of a death before the news was generally known. One was the death of President Garfield twelve hours before even a rumour of it had reached England. Another was that of a man who threw himself under a steam-roller in Baker Street, London. A former member of the S.P.R. Council, well known to me, was with Mr. Moses at the time, and has narrated the whole occurrence. Mr. Moses' hand suddenly drew a rough sketch of some horsed vehicle, and then wrote : 'I killed myself to-day, Baker Street ; ' after which, passing into a trance, Mr. Moses, greatly agitated, said : 'Yes, yes, killed myself to-day under a steam-roller — yes, yes, killed myself.' No one present knew what this meant, but later on, an evening paper related that a cabman had that day committed suicide in Baker Street by throwing himself under a steam-roller."

- [natural selection](#) (24)
- [naturalism](#) (2)
- [nature](#) (2)
- [near death experience](#) (21)
- [Neptune](#) (1)
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- [observer selection effect](#) (1)
- [ocean acidification](#) (1)
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- [pareidolia](#) (1)
- [particle collisions](#) (1)
- [particle physics](#) (14)
- [peak coal](#) (3)
- [peak oil](#) (5)
- [peer review](#) (1)
- [phantom events](#) (1)
- [philosophical zombie](#) (1)
- [philosophy](#) (33)
- [philosophy of mind](#) (19)
- [philosophy of science](#) (3)
- [photography](#) (2)
- [physicalism](#) (2)
- [physics](#) (20)
- [pigs](#) (1)
- [planetoids](#) (1)
- [plant intelligence](#) (1)
- [pollution](#) (4)
- [polygamy](#) (1)
- [pork eating](#) (1)
- [post-scarcity economy](#) (1)
- [precognition](#) (12)
- [predictions](#) (4)
- [primordial fluctuations](#) (1)
- [primordial singularity](#) (1)
- [problem of evil](#) (5)
- [prognostication](#) (2)
- [programmed material universe](#) (8)
- [protein folding](#) (5)
- [psychokinesis](#) (5)



A steam roller

Cases such as these (and countless other cases of paranormal phenomena) are innumerable. But we do not hear about such cases in our mainstream media news sources. Such sources [keep their readers in filter bubbles](#) so that the readers only read stories about the world behaving as they expect the world to behave. Similarly, you almost never hear on the Fox News TV channel about things contrary to the prevailing beliefs of Republicans, and you almost never hear on the MSNBC TV channel about things contrary to the prevailing beliefs of Democrats. And in the old Soviet Union, when you picked up your daily edition of Pravda, you would never read about the many in the gulag camps, and never read about people waiting in line for hours to get some groceries. So when a person hears about some paranormal incident and says, "Things like that don't happen," it is usually because that person has got his news and education only from places that prevented him from learning about such occurrences.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:13 AM](#) No comments: [M](#) [B](#) [t](#) [f](#) [p](#)

Labels: [apparition](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Monday, June 29, 2020

Still More Cases of Veridical Apparitions

In the eight posts below I have described or quoted about 160 cases of someone experiencing something like a suprising apparition of someone, only to soon later learn that the corresponding person had died, usually at about the same time the apparition was seen. The eight posts are below:

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

[They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death"](#)

[More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[Even More Cases of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[When Apparitions Serve as Announcements](#)

In this post I will discuss additional cases of this type. The links I will give will usually take you to the exact page of an account that I discuss or quote.

On [page 10 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we can read the following account of a man who saw an apparition of his brother very close to the time

- [psychology experiments](#) (1)
- [psychometry](#) (2)
- [pulsars](#) (1)
- [qigong](#) (1)
- [quantum biology](#) (1)
- [quantum computer universe](#) (1)
- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
- [quantum mechanics](#) (6)
- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
- [quasars](#) (1)
- [racism](#) (1)
- [radical abundance](#) (1)
- [random universes](#) (2)
- [randomness](#) (2)
- [receptacle theory of consciousness](#) (3)
- [recolonization of Earth](#) (1)
- [recommended books](#) (11)
- [Reddit](#) (1)
- [reductionism](#) (2)
- [reincarnation](#) (3)
- [rejuvenation](#) (2)
- [remote viewing](#) (7)
- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
- [requirements underestimation](#) (4)
- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retroognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
- [robots](#) (14)
- [rogue planet](#) (1)
- [savants](#) (4)
- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
- [science and religion](#) (1)
- [science fiction](#) (104)
- [Science fiction stories](#) (121)
- [science fiction story](#) (118)
- [science journalism](#) (5)
- [scientific consensus](#) (3)
- [scientific explanation](#) (2)
- [scientific explanations](#) (7)
- [scientific literature](#) (2)
- [scientific process](#) (7)
- [scientific speculation](#) (9)
- [scientific theories](#) (5)
- [scientific theory](#) (5)
- [scientist misconduct](#) (1)
- [scientist subculture](#) (1)
- [self](#) (1)
- [self-consciousness](#) (2)
- [sensationalism](#) (1)
- [SETI](#) (16)
- [sex](#) (1)
- [sexism](#) (1)
- [shopping](#) (1)
- [short radio bursts](#) (1)
- [simulated universe](#) (6)
- [Singularity](#) (8)
- [skepticism](#) (9)
- [slavery](#) (1)
- [social media](#) (1)
- [social security](#) (1)
- [social trends](#) (1)
- [sociology of science](#) (13)
- [software development](#) (5)
- [solar flares](#) (1)
- [solar system](#) (1)
- [soul](#) (4)
- [space colonization](#) (2)
- [space station](#) (2)

his brother died in an accidental cannon firing:

"I was surprised to see my brother coming to meet me. He had on his velveteen shooting jacket, and walked in his usual manner. It was quite light, and I distinctly saw him. I turned my eyes away for a moment to look at the gate, and then he was gone....I was much struck with the apparition, but I passed it off my mind and went to the cliff, and heard some people singing for about half an hour when a boy said to me, 'Have you heard of the accident to your brother at Northrepps Hall?' I replied, 'No, but if an accident has happened to my brother, I know he is dead.' "

On [page 15 of the same volume](#), we read about a sister basically learning of her brother's death from an apparition:

"Miss M. W. P., who was in no anxiety about her brother, was wakened by hearing his voice call her several times. She sat up and saw him standing at the foot of Jier bed. Apparition said : 'I could not go without telling you good-bye,' and disappeared. Miss P.'s sister testifies that the above was mentioned to her and to several schoolfellows next day. About six weeks later, news arrived of the brother's death by drowning..."

On [page 74-75 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read the following account by A. McDougall:

"I met no one on the road till I came to the Greystoke pillar, about a mile from Penrith. There, driving slowly as I was about to turn into a narrow lane, I was deeply shadowed from behind, and upon looking back to see what caused the shadow I saw my friend Broome, bending over me with an expression of the most tender affection upon his countenance. I spoke to him, pulled up the horse, and alighted. I walked round the gig, called him by name, begged him not to play tricks at midnight, but to come to me and come home with me. I had, of course, to go without him. At home I inquired if Mr. Broome had called. The answer was No. I then told my wife that I had seen him near the Greystoke pillar, that he must be in the town, and would be sure to call in the morning. Three days passed, when we received intelligence that Mr. Broome was [dead], and strange to tell he had died at the very hour at midnight at which I had seen him near the Greystoke pillar."

On [page 172 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we read about two cases:

"Miss M. E. Godwin, when a child, was walking out with a friend when both of them saw a gentleman whom she knew well ; she spoke to him, and he answered. Next day they heard that he had died from the effects of an accident exactly at the time she had seen him....Mr. and Mrs. Cleverley hear footsteps, and Mrs. C, going out to investigate, sees apparition of her son in another room. He was drowned at the same time by the sinking of the ship Eurydice,"

On page 244 of Volume 20 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, which you can read [here](#), we read the following account which doesn't quite qualify as being "ghost-told," because no apparition was seen.

"The writer then describes how on September 2, 1916, between 10 and 11 a.m., whilst in her room dressing, she was suddenly seized with a sensation of terrible distress accompanied by a

- [sports of the future](#) (1)
- [STARGATE program](#) (1)
- [starships](#) (1)
- [stem cells](#) (1)
- [string theory](#) (6)
- [subsidies](#) (1)
- [sun](#) (1)
- [supercomputer](#) (3)
- [superintelligence](#) (7)
- [supermen](#) (2)
- [supernovae](#) (2)
- [supersymmetry](#) (9)
- [surveillance state](#) (1)
- [synapse theory of memory](#) (7)
- [taxes](#) (1)
- [technological innovations](#) (1)
- [teleology](#) (4)
- [teleportation](#) (1)
- [theism](#) (3)
- [theories of mind](#) (7)
- [theories of the future](#) (3)
- [theories of the universe](#) (4)
- [theories of time](#) (3)
- [theories of truth](#) (1)
- [theory of accelerating progress](#) (1)
- [theory of consciousness](#) (8)
- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
- [third man factor](#) (1)
- [time dilation](#) (1)
- [time travel](#) (3)
- [tininess of human knowledge](#) (16)
- [top-down theory of mind](#) (1)
- [Transhumanism](#) (3)
- [Twitter](#) (1)
- [types of universes](#) (2)
- [UFO](#) (9)
- [UFOs](#) (8)
- [universe](#) (8)
- [vacuum](#) (3)
- [vacuum catastrophe](#) (3)
- [vegetarianism](#) (2)
- [Venus](#) (1)
- [Venus colonization](#) (1)
- [videos](#) (1)
- [virtual reality](#) (2)
- [vitalism](#) (3)
- [von Neumann probes](#) (2)
- [water memory](#) (1)
- [wealth inequality](#) (4)
- [weddings](#) (1)
- [white holes](#) (1)
- [wormhole](#) (1)

feeling of suffocation. She said to her daughter that some great disaster had befallen her son, Rene. Two days later she was informed by the chief of his squadron that her son, a pilot in the flying corps, had disappeared over the German lines near Verdun on the day and at the hour of her distressing experience."

On page 100 of [Volume 22](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following November 1913 account by C.H. Thornton:

"On the evening of October 20th, 1913, between ten and eleven, I was lying in bed at Duff House, Banff....I was lying on my left side, reading a novel, when the feeling of a presence in the room made me turn on my back. There standing at the bottom of the bed on the right side was a figure. I thought I saw the head and shoulders of a man outlined against the white wall-paper and clothed in a long and shapeless black garment. I could see no face, owing I thought to my short sight, but the shape of the head and shoulders was, I believed, that of my husband, and I felt no doubt at all that it was he. He gazed at me and I gazed at him for some seconds...The next morning Dr. Spriggs came to break the news to me that my husband had died suddenly while doing duty at St. Edward's Church, Cambridge, on Sunday evening, Oct. 19th."

On [page 91 of Volume 3](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account that does not involve a visual apparition, but which does seem to rather qualify as a case of being 'ghost-told' of a death:

"On the evening of Sunday, August 20th, 1874, I was strolling on the downs skirting Marlcombe Hill, composing a congratulatory letter, which I proposed to write and post to my very dear friend W., so that he might have it on his birthday, the 22nd, when I heard a voice saying, 'What, write to a dead man ; write to a dead man!' I turned sharply round, fully expecting to see some one close behind me. There was no one. Treating the matter as an illusion, I went on with my composition. A second time I heard the same voice, saying, more loudly than before, 'What, write to a dead man ; write to a dead man!' Again I turned round. I was alone, at least bodily. I now fully understood the meaning of that voice ; it was no illusion. Notwithstanding this, I sent the proposed letter, and in reply received from Mrs. W. the sad, but to me not unexpected, intelligence, that her husband was dead."

On page 92 of [Volume 24](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account:

"The evening before I was to go, I was sitting by the fire in my small parlour about 5 p.m. There was no light in the room except what proceeded from the fire. Beside the fireplace was an armchair, where my cousin usually sat when she was with me. Suddenly that chair was illuminated by a light so intensely bright that it actually seemed to heave under it, though the remainder of the room remained in semi-darkness. I called out in amazement, ' What has happened to the chair ' . In a moment the light vanished and the chair was as before. In the morning I heard that my cousin had died about the same time that I saw the light."

On page 133 of [Volume 25-26](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account by a Mrs. Finniecome, regarding a Baroness who died on April 29:

"Now I must tell you that a very strange thing happened to me on the night of April 29th...On the Tuesday evening I went to bed feeling very tired about 9 p.m. and fell sound to sleep. About 11 p.m. I awoke with some one pressing a kiss on my forehead, and on looking up, I saw the Baroness standing by the side of the bed, she looked as though she desired to say something, or was waiting for me to speak or answer, but I was so startled, not to say, afraid, I was speechless, so after gazing at one another for a minute or two, the Baroness turned and vanished. Her expression was so sad and enquiring I cannot forget it. What I have just written you is not an hallucination but real fact. I related it to Mr Finniecome on the Wednesday morning, and he said 'you were dreaming.' However now the news has come of the Baroness's death, Mr Finniecome is convinced that really I saw what I related to have seen. I only wish I knew what it was the Baroness wished to ask or tell me—for I am sure she wanted to know something....I really saw the Baroness as clearly as I see the paper I am now writing on and I was wide awake."

On page 135 of the same volume, we are told, "The time of Baroness Liebieg's death (11.20 p.m.) therefore corresponds exactly with the time fixed by Mrs. Finniecome for her vision."

On page 35 of [Volume 27](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account by a W. W. Grundy:

"On Saty. [Saturday] last (Nov. 15) my wife was upstairs in bed with a cold. I was out of doors somewhere and my wife's sister was quietly reading a novel downstairs, awaiting tea. Suddenly she had a vision of her aunt, an old lady of 81, in the doorway : she had known this aunt to have been ill recently although she had got over many such attacks before and the recent news has been on the whole v. [very] reassuring. She looked at her watch : it marked 4.45. That evening—about 7.30. we received a wire handed in at 6.29 p.m. saying that her aunt had passed away ' this afternoon.' By this (Monday) morning's post at 11.00 a.m. a letter arrived to say that her aunt had passed away at exactly 4.45 p.m. on Saturday."

Next is something that may not be strictly speaking a ghost sighting, although it qualifies as an apparition sighting. On [page 72 of Volume 33](#) of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, we have the following account:

"The vision seen was of Mr Eustace Neville Craig, a close friend of Mrs Dick-Cunyngham. The latter, writing to Mr Fawcett recently, said in reference to her experience : 'I did not even know that he had been suddenly taken ill (operation). One Sunday I had gone to church in London with my mother. Suddenly I got the clearest vision I have ever seen. It was like a shutter opened slowly and then closed again slowly. For two seconds I saw Eustace lying quite motionless on a bed. His eyes were closed, he was as white as a sheet. There were two nurses in white caps ; one was advancing holding a glass of medicine. Then the vision vanished. I came home and said to Dickson [her maid], I believe Mr Craig is ill '. The following Tuesday his death was in the Times. Afterwards I heard he had never recovered consciousness after an operation.' "

On [page 207 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society of Psychical Research, we read the following:

"Mr. J. R. S. when a boy saw an old schoolfellow, B. M., standing in his bedroom. They had agreed some

years previously that whichever of them died first should appear to the other. The apparition was seen by gaslight. B. M. died at the time, Mr. S. not knowing that he was ill."

On [page 280 of Volume 6](#) of the Journal of the Society of Psychical Research, we read the following:

"A sister of mine went to South America, and married there. One morning I was in bed about 11 o'clock, when there was a knock at ray door ; thinking it was the house-maid with hot water, I said 'Come in.' No one came in. There was another knock ; again I said 'Come in,' and turned to- wards the door. My sister was standing there. I, thinking she had returned unexpectedly, said 'What, you, Elsie ?' She then vanished. When I went downstairs I told my husband, who said 'Don't tell your mother, or she will think something has happened to her.' We heard a month later that she had died, after a few hours' illness, about that time."

On [page 9 of Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society of Psychical Research, we read the following account by J. H. Kennedy:

"My cousin, Miss Amy Flint, passed by the side of my bed several times from the foot, disappearing at the head, and carrying in her hand, with her arm stretched out, a virgin's lamp. After she had passed several times I started up in bed...I dismissed the thing from my mind, till about 10 o'clock, when my cousin's brother called to say his sister had passed away just at the time of my vision."

On the next page of the same volume, we read the following account by a Mr. Myers:

"On the 7th June, between one and three o'clock in the morning, I woke with the sensation that half my life had been taken from me (I can only describe the feeling in this vague way). I sat up and pressed my side in wonder at what was happening. I then saw most beautiful lights at the end of the room ; these lights gave place to a cloud, and after a few moments the face of a dear sister, then living (as I believed), appeared in the cloud, which remained a little while and then gradually faded away. I became much alarmed and at once felt I should hear bad news of my sister, who was living in London and had been very ill, though the last accounts we had received had been better. I told my husband what had happened, and when a telegram was brought by a friend at 8 o'clock that morning I knew what its contents must be. The telegram contained the news of my sister's death during the previous night."

On [page 14 of the same Volume 5](#) of the Journal of the Society of Psychical Research, we read the following: "Mr. G. Fitzmaurice tells us in 1889 that his grandmother, Mrs. Watkins, saw the apparition of Miss Griffiths coincidently with that lady's sudden death," and also that "the Rev. J.J.Dyson tells us in May, 1887, that a rector's wife told him that her grandmother saw the apparition of an absent son at the time of his death."



A very substantial case of being literally "ghost-told" of a death can be found near the end of the appendices to Chapter IV (page 376) in Frederick Myers "[Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death](#)." I will quote from that book (which can be read [here](#)) an account written by Karl Dignowtty:

DOBER UND PAUSE, SCHLESSEN, December 12th, 1889.

About a year ago there died in a neighbouring village a brewer called Wünscher, with whom I stood in friendly relations. His death ensued after a short illness, and as I seldom had an opportunity of visiting him, I knew nothing of his illness nor of his death. On the day of his death I went to bed at nine o'clock, tired with the labours which my calling as a farmer demands of me....I fell asleep as soon as I lay down. In my dream I heard the deceased call out with a loud voice, "Boy, make haste and give me my boots." This awoke me, and I noticed that, for the sake of our child, my wife had left the light burning. I pondered with pleasure over my dream, thinking in my mind how Wünscher, who was a good-natured, humorous man, would laugh when I told him of this dream. Still thinking on it, I hear Wünscher's voice scolding outside, just under my window. I sit up in my bed at once and listen, but cannot understand his words. What can the brewer want? I thought, and I know for certain that I was much vexed with him, that he should make a disturbance in the night, as I felt convinced that his affairs might surely have waited till the morrow. Suddenly he comes into the room from behind the linen press, steps with long strides past the bed of my wife and the child's bed; wildly gesticulating with his arms all the time, as his habit was, he called out, "What do you say to this, Herr Oberamtmann? This afternoon at five o'clock I have died." Startled by this information, I exclaim, "Oh, that is not true!" He replied: "Truly, as I tell you; and, what do you think? They want to bury me already on Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock," accentuating his assertions all the while by his gesticulations. During this long speech of my visitor I examined myself as to whether I was really awake and not dreaming.

I asked myself: Is this a hallucination? Is my mind in full possession of its faculties? Yes, there is the light, there the jug, this is the mirror, and this the brewer; and I came to the conclusion: I am awake. Then the thought occurred to me, What will my wife think if she awakes and sees the brewer in our bedroom? In this fear of her waking up I turn round to my wife, and to my great relief I see from her face, which is turned towards me, that she is still asleep; but she looks very pale. I say to the brewer, "Herr Wünscher, we will speak softly, so that my wife may not wake up, it would be very disagreeable to her to find you here." To which Wünscher answered in a lower and calmer tone: "Don't be afraid, I will do no harm to your wife." Things do happen indeed for which we find no explanation—I thought to myself, and said to Wünscher: "If this be true, that you have died, I am sincerely sorry for it; I will look after your children." Wünscher stepped towards me, stretched out his arms and moved his lips as though he would

embrace me; therefore I said in a threatening tone, and looking steadfastly at him with a frowning brow: "Don't come so near, it is disagreeable to me," and lifted my right arm to ward him off, but before my arm reached him the apparition had vanished. My first look was to my wife to see if she were still asleep. She was. I got up and looked at my watch, it was seven minutes past twelve. My wife woke up and asked me: "To whom did you speak so loud just now?" "Have you understood anything?" I said. "No," she answered, and went to sleep again.

I impart this experience to the Society for Psychical Research, in the belief that it may serve as a new proof for the real existence of telepathy. I must further remark that the brewer had died that afternoon at five o'clock, and was buried on the following Tuesday at two.—With great respect,

KARL DIGNOWTTY
(Landed Proprietor).

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:46 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Saturday, June 13, 2020

More Early Twentieth Century Evidence for Paranormal Phenomena

In the post [here](#) I discussed some early twentieth century evidence for paranormal phenomena. In this post I will discuss additional evidence for the paranormal from such a time.

On [page 112](#) of the book *Enigmas of Psychical Research* by James Hyslop, we read an account by Caroline Barber that reminded me of two events I have experienced myself. We read the following:

"I had one day been spending the morning in shopping, and returned by train just in time to sit down with my children to our early family dinner. My youngest child — a sensitive, quick-witted little maiden of two years and six weeks old — was one of the circle. Dinner had just commenced, when I suddenly recollected an incident in my morning's experience which I had intended to tell her, and I looked at the child with the full intention of saying, 'Mother saw a big, black dog in a shop, with curly hair,' catching her eyes in mine, as I paused an instant before speaking. Just then something called off my attention, and the sentence was not uttered. What was my amazement, about two minutes afterward, to hear my little lady announce, 'Mother saw a big dog in a shop.' I gasped. 'Yes, I did!' I answered; 'but how did you know?' 'With funny hair,' she added, quite calmly, and ignoring my question."

I have had experiences just like this with my own family members. Once I was at a zoo with my two daughters. We had not seen any apes that day, and were not close to any glass. For some reason I thought of a time about 10 years earlier when the three of us had briefly seen a gorilla just behind a wall of glass. I was just about to say something like, "Do you remember that time years ago when we saw that gorilla behind the glass?" An instant later, before I said anything like that, one of my daughters asked me exactly that question. On another day, I was just about to say, "See you later, alligator" to the same daughter. But I decided not to say that, thinking that she might be offended by such a remark. So I simply said, "See you later." She then said, "See you later, alligator" -- a phrase I had never heard her use before.



On [page 85-86](#) of the book *Death and Its Mystery: Before Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of a man who had a horse accident that caused him to break his collarbone while he was trying to return home. At the very same time, his wife far away was struck by the conviction that her husband must have died or been injured.

On page 33 of [Volume 7](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1908), we have an account of a woman who went into trance and started to speak with the "voice, gestures, and play of features habitual with" her mother, and that "strange to say, her eyes changed color; being naturally brown, they became blue, the color of" her mother's eyes.

On page 556 of [Volume 6](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science* (1907), we have the following statement asserting that levitation and apparitions of hands were observed under carefully controlled conditions, by quite a few distinguished scientists and professors:

"A SERIES of seances with Eusapia Paladino have just been held in Naples. They have been perhaps more important than all that have preceded them, because conducted under even more severe scientific control. These seances took place in the laboratory of Professor Ph. .Bottazzi, Director of the Physiological Institute in the University of Naples. There were also present, Dr. G. Galeotti, Professor of General Pathology in the University of Naples; Dr. T. De Amicis, Professor of Dermatology and Syphilography at the same University, Dr. O. Scarpa, Professor of Electro-Chemistry at the Polytechnic School in Naples; M. E. Jona, Senator, President of the Italian Electro. Technical Association; Dr. A. Cardarelli, Senator, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Naples; M. N. Minutillo, Professor of Jurisprudence in the University. Mme. Bottazzi was also present at two seances, in the course of which mediumistic faculties revealed themselves in her-which disturbed her considerably. By the light of three lamps the table round which the experimenters were seated was seen to rise as high as nearly half a yard (40c.) or to float in the air untouched, without any contact with Eusapia, for about twenty-five minutes; then apparitions of hands began, and of black heads, etc."

More details about these "apparitions of hands" can be found on pages 105-109 of the [same volume](#). On pages 120-130 of the same volume, we have an astonishing paper entitled "The Levitations of the Medium Zuccarini." It discusses observations of levitations by the medium M. Amedeo Zuccarini witnessed by several observers. On page 127 of [the same volume](#) we read the following, written by a Professor O. Murani:

"Whilst the left leg of the medium was stretched out in the air behind the curtain, where there was no possible object to support it, and whilst his body was bent forwards, the foot on

the edge of the table first contracted extraordinarily, then rose gradually, and not by jumps, and the medium's body remained poised in space for a period of from ten to twelve seconds ! The phenomenon was exceedingly interesting : on the first impression one would say that the medium's body did not obey the laws of gravity. How is this to be explained no one knows; it is necessary to suppose that another force, opposed to that of gravity, prevents the fall."

Following [page 134](#) we have photographs documenting this claim. In the nineteenth century a similar levitation phenomenon was observed by a host of distinguished observers in seances of the medium Daniel Dunglas Home, observers including the world-class scientist William Crookes (as discussed [here](#)).

Professor M. L. Patrizi testifies to the same effect, that Zuccarini levitated. He states, "The duration of the suspension was variable, lasting while we could count from four to thirty-six, as also was the distance of his feet from the surface of the table (approximately from two to twenty inches)." On [page 140 of the same volume](#) the same professor states the following;

"Sceptical readers, perusing the record of so many precautions, so many doubts, and so much initial scepticism, will have recognised that the conviction of the genuineness of this phenomenon was only reached, by me also, slowly and with difficulty. Of the four seances at which I was present, I may say that only the last, of March 23rd, gave me complete certainty ; of the eight journeys which I made between Modena and the meeting place in Milan, the final one back to the laboratory alone constitutes my 'journey to Damascus.' "

I was surprised to read recently on the online web site of Scientific American an [interview](#) with journalist Leslie Kean, the author of the excellent book *Surviving Death: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for an Afterlife*. What I was very surprised by was that the interviewer (John Horgan) actually allowed Kean to talk at some length about evidence for life after death, the type of evidence that Scientific American almost never allows its readers to hear about. Kean referred us to a remarkable piece of evidence from the early twentieth century, involving the medium Indridi Indridason.

The evidence (discussed in detail [here](#)) involves statements of a "drop-in communicator" speaking through the lips of the medium Indridi Indridason. In a seance with Indridason held in Reykjavik, Iceland on November 24, 1905, this seemingly paranormal "drop-in communicator" identified himself as Mr. Jensen, and stated that a fire had started in a factory in Copenhagen, Denmark (more than 1300 miles away) on that evening (November 24, 1905) about midnight, and that the fire was quickly brought under control. It was soon found out that exactly such a thing had happened. A newspaper reported that in Copenhagen on November 24, 1905, a factory fire had started about midnight, and was soon brought under control. There were no telephones in Reykjavik until the next year, and no telegraphs until 1918, so there is no way in which electrical communication could have made such a thing known to Indridasson or anyone else at the seance. Not many days later the same "drop in communicator" more specifically identified himself as Emil Jensen.

No one present knew whether such an Emil Jensen had ever lived. But it was found out many years later through the investigation of Erlendur Haraldsson that an Emil Jensen had lived and died in Copenhagen, Denmark, very near to the place

where the Copenhagen fire had occurred. The "Emil Jensen" in the seances identified himself as a manufacturer who was a bachelor, and the actual Emil Jensen was such a person.

Very remarkably, this "drop-in communicator" at the seance (speaking through the lips of the medium Indridi Indridason) had spoken in Danish, a language which Indridason did not even know ([pages 218-219](#)). We read this on [page 221](#):

"At many sittings Jensen was seen by sitters appearing in a 'luminous, beautiful light-pillar', usually very briefly but several times during the same séance and at various locations in the hall. This 'pillar of light' would first appear in the darkness, and after that Jensen would appear in it. The 'pillar of light' was larger than Jensen and emitted light in such a way that Jensen and Indridi could sometimes be seen side by side at the same time (Gissurarson & Haraldsson, 1989, pp.82–85). Both of Indridi's hands were at the same time being held by a witness to exclude the possibility of fraud."

The physical manifestation reported above was only one of many extremely dramatic physical manifestations that occurred during the seances of Indridi Indridason. A special building was constructed to scientifically study this medium. Under conditions under which fraud should have been impossible, a large number of witnesses (often including some of the top scientific or medical authorities in Iceland) reported seeing the following at the seances of Indridi Indridason ([pages 203-204](#)):

- Mysterious gusts of wind, cold or hot
- Mysterious raps and other noises
- Mysterious voices or choir music
- Levitations and inexplicable movements of objects
- Levitations of Indridi Indridason himself
- Playing of musical instruments as if by invisible hands
- Mysterious fire balls or fire-flashes
- Writing appearing on paper without human touch
- Luminous clouds as large as several feet

In the paper [here](#), Haraldsson discusses how the Indridason/Jensen case bears a remarkable resemblance to one of the best documented cases of the paranormal: the description of a distant fire by Emanuel Swedenborg in 1759, a fire that came close to his home in Stockholm. Before 15 witnesses Swedenborg described the fire while in another city of Sweden (Gothenburg, more than 200 miles away), and days after his description his account was found to be uncannily accurate.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [8:17 AM](#)

No comments:



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Thursday, November 19, 2020

When Apparitions Act as News Bulletins

In the posts below I have described about 200 cases of people who reported seeing an apparition of someone who had died, but whose death was unknown to the person just before they saw the apparition:

[25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[25 More Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Yet Another 25 Who Were "Ghost-Told" of a Death](#)

[Scientific American's Very Lame "Ghost Explanations"](#)

[They Also Were "Ghost Told" of a Death](#)

[More Accounts of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[Even More Cases of Veridical Apparitions](#)

[When Apparitions Serve as Announcements](#)

[Still More Cases of Veridical Apparitions](#)

In this post I will give some more cases of this type.

On [pages 155-156](#) of the book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Moment of Death* by Camille Flammarion we are told of a Baroness de Boisleve who entertained several distinguished officials for dinner on March 17, 1863. All of a sudden the Baroness gave out a scream and fainted. Upon awakening, she told her guests she had seen her son, his left eye a hideous bleeding hole. The son was known to be away on a Mexican expedition. The guests assured the Baroness she had merely hallucinated. But it was later found out that her son had died on March 17, 1863, killed by a bullet which had pierced his left eye. We are told, "When the difference in time was allowed for, the hour of his death corresponded exactly to the moment of his apparition in the drawing-room of the rue Pasquier."

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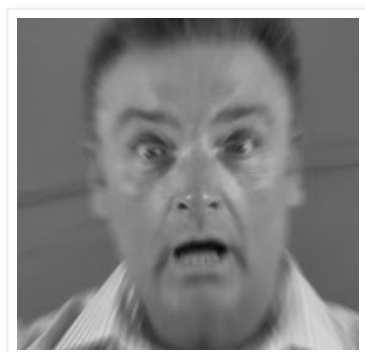
[Another Groundless Boast of Progress in Understand...](#)

[Mind Treks of the Hypnotized Nearly Blind Clairvoyant](#)

[Science End-of-Year Recap Stories Suggest Shortfalls](#)

On [page 257](#) of the book *Apparitions and Thought Transference* by Frank Podmore, we read this account by a Dr. Carat:

"On the night of the 10th June 1877 I had what might be called a telepathic hallucination. I cannot state the hour with absolute precision, but it was between ten o'clock and midnight. About that time, 'between sleeping and waking,' I saw the end of my room lighted up, the darkness was illuminated by a silvery light (it is the only word I can think of), and I saw my mother gazing fixedly at me, with a sort of troubled expression. After a few seconds it all disappeared....Next day I received notice of my mother's death."



On [page 266](#) of the same book, we read this account of an apparition sighting with a very unusual auditory aspect:

"Suddenly I saw against the background of the door, which was opposite me, my father's face. He wore as usual a black surtout, and was deadly pale. At that moment I heard quite close to my ear a voice which said to me, 'A telegram is coming to say your father is dead.' All this only took a few seconds.... On the evening of the same day, about eleven o'clock, we were taking tea in the company of several other people, among whom were Madame Y., her daughter E. Y., formerly an actress at the Court Theatre, and Mademoiselle M., who is now living in Florence. All at once there was a knock at the door, and the concierge presented a telegram. Pale with emotion I immediately exclaimed, 'I know my father is dead ; I have seen. . . .' The telegram contained these words, ' Papa dead suddenly. — Olga.' It was a telegram from my sister living at St. Petersburg. I learned later that my father had committed suicide on the morning of the same day."

A very early case of a veridical apparition is to be found in the 1825 book *Signs before death, and authenticated apparitions: in one hundred narratives* by John Timbs. On [page 44](#), we are told that in 1678 a Dr. Farrar made a pact with his daughter that whoever died first should appear to the other one. The daughter died near Salisbury, 79 miles from London. We read the following:

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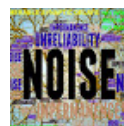


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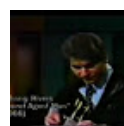
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"Her father lived in London, and the night on which she died, she opened his curtains and gazed upon him. He had before heard nothing of her illness ; but upon this apparition confidently told his maid that his daughter was dead, and two days after he received the news."

On [page 157](#) of Louis Rhine's book *Hidden Channels of the Mind*, we have the following account of a young girl who learned of her father's death by seeing an apparition:

"I was sent next door to stay overnight with my girl friend. I woke up and at the foot of the bed was the most beautiful light I had ever seen. There was my father with his arms open to me and as I watched he was rising up. I called to my girlfriend, telling her my father was dead. We got up and lit the light. It was just ten after four in the morning; soon my uncle came from the hospital to tell us my father had passed away, and that he called to me as he was dying. He passed away at exactly ten after four."

The long book "The Debatable Land Between this World and the Next, with Illustrative Narrations" by Robert Dale Owen is a fascinating exploration of paranormal phenomena, written by the author of the equally long and equally fascinating [book](#) "Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World." On [page 457](#) we read the following account by Frederick Steins:

"It was on the thirteenth of December, 1847, as I was walking, with my two eldest sons, in Grand street, New York. It was in the forenoon, before twelve o'clock, and the sidewalk was full of people. There the whole figure of my father suddenly appeared to me. He was in his usual dress, his well-remembered cap on his head, his pipe in his hand, and he gazed on me with an earnest look ; then, as suddenly, disappeared. I was very much terrified, and immediately wrote home, relating what had happened. Some time afterward I received a letter from one of my brothers, written from Neukirchen, Rhenish Prussia, the family residence, informing me that on the morning of the thirteenth of December, our father had died there. At breakfast on that day he was in his usual health, and had been speaking of me with great anxiety. After breakfast he passed out into the yard ; and, in returning, he dropped dead, overtaken by a sudden fit of apoplexy."

In the very interesting 1866 book *The Night Side of Nature* by Catherine Crowe, we have numerous accounts of people seeing someone that they did not know was dead, only to learn that the person had died on the same day, typically at the same time. Below are some examples:

(1) A Mrs. K. saw her brother through the window, and looked around, expecting him to soon appear; but he did not. [We are](#)

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- [Why DNA Cannot Be a Specification of a Human](#)
- [A "Water Memory" Effect I Have Often Photographed](#)
- [9 Strange Mental Phenomena That May Support an Alternate Theory of Consciousness](#)
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told, "The intelligence shortly arrived from St. Andrews, that at that precise time, as nearly as they could compare circumstances, he had died quite suddenly at his own place of residence."

(2) Lord M. had gone out hunting, and Lady M. seemed to see him, as if he had returned. But then she and someone else were unable to find him. [We are told](#), "Before they had recovered their surprise at his sudden disappearance, he was brought home dead; having been killed by his own gun."

(3) [Page 151](#):

"Lord B. was in confinement in the castle of Edinburgh, under suspicion of Jacobitism, when one morning, whilst lying in bed, the curtains were drawn aside by his friend, Viscount Dundee, who looked upon him steadfastly, leaned for some time on the mantel- piece, and then walked out of the room. Lord B. not supposing that what he saw was a spectre, called to Dundee to come back and speak to him. but he was gone; and shortly afterwards the news came that he had fallen about that same hour at Killicranky."

(4) [Page 151](#):

"Mrs. J. wakes her husband in the night, and tells him she has just seen her father pass through the room — she being in the West Indies and her father in England. He died that night."

(5) [Page 152](#):

"A lady, with whose family I am acquainted, had a son abroad. One night she was lying in bed, with a door open which led into an adjoining room, where there was a fire. She had not been to sleep, when she saw her son cross this adjoining room and approach the fire, over which he leant, as if very cold. She saw that he was shivering and dripping wet. She immediately exclaimed, 'That's my G. !' The figure turned its face round, looked at her sadly, and disappeared. That same night the young man was drowned."

(6) [Page 154](#):

"Mr. S. C, a gentleman of fortune, had a son in India. One fine calm summer's morning, in the year 1780, he and his wife were sitting at breakfast, when she rose and went to the window; upon which, turning his eyes in the same direction, he started up and followed her, saying. 'My dear, do you see that?' 'Surely,' she replied, 'it is our son. Let us go to him !' As she was very much agitated, however, he begged her to sit down and recover herself; and when they looked again,

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the figure was gone. The appearance was that of their son, precisely as they had last seen him. They took note of the hour, and afterwards learnt that he had died in India at that period."

(7) [Page 157](#):

"A lady, with whom I am acquainted, was on her way to India; when near the end of her voyage she was one night awakened by a rustling in her cabin, and a consciousness that there was something hovering about her. She sat up, and saw a bluish cloudy form moving away; but persuading herself it must be fancy, she addressed herself again to sleep; but as soon as she lay down, she both heard and felt the same thing: it seemed to her as if this cloudy form hung over and enveloped her. Overcome with, horror, she screamed. The cloud then moved away, assuming distinctly a human shape. The people about her naturally persuaded her that she had been dreaming; and she wished to think so; but when she arrived in India, the first thing she heard was that a very particular friend had come down to Calcutta to be ready to receive her on her landing, but that he had been taken ill and died, saying, he only wished to live to see his old friend once more. He had expired on the night she saw the shadowy form in her room."

(8) [Page 158](#):

"One day the young baron was sitting alone on a seat, in the Bois de Boulogne, and had fallen somewhat into a reverie, when, on raising his eyes, he saw his father's form above him. Believing it to be a mere spectral illusion, he struck at the shadow with his riding-whip, upon which it disappeared. The next day brought him a letter, urging his return home instantly, if he wished to see his parent alive. He went, but found the old man already in his grave. The persons who had been about him said, that he had been quite conscious, and had a great longing to see his son; he had indeed, exhibited one symptom of delirium, which was, that after expressing this desire, he had suddenly exclaimed, 'My God ! he is striking at me with his riding-whip !' and immediately expired."

(9) [Page 248](#): we have an account of a woman who saw an apparition of her mother, and heard from the apparition that she would die by midnight on that very day. She did die unexpectedly near the stroke of midnight, despite being examined by a doctor earlier that day, one who could find nothing very wrong with her.

In the book *More Glimpses of the World Unseen* by Frederick George Lee, the author quotes a reviewer of Lee's previous book who told of seeing an apparition that acted as a news bulletin

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informing him of the death of a friend. Referring to himself in the third person, the reviewer states this on [pages 131-134](#):

"The day was rather foggy, but there was no density of vapour, yet the door at the end of the passage seemed obscured by mist. As he advanced, the mist, so to call it, gathered into one spot, deepened, and formed itself into the outline of a human figure, the head and shoulders becoming more and more distinct, while the rest of the body seemed enveloped in a gauzy cloaklike vestment of many folds, reaching down so as to hide the feet, and, from its width, as it rested on the flagged passage, giving a pyramidal outline. The full light of the window fell on this object, which was so thin and tenuous in its consistency that the light on the panels of a highly varnished door was visible through the lower part of the dress. It was altogether colourless, a statue carved in mist. The writer was so startled, that he is uncertain whether he moved forward, or stood still. He was rather astonished than terrified, for his first notion was that he was witnessing some hitherto unnoticed effect of light and shade. He had no thought of anything supernatural, till, as he gazed, the head was turned towards him, and he at once recognised the features of a very dear friend. The expression of his countenance was that of holy, peaceful repose, and the gentle kindly aspect which it wore in daily life was intensified (so the writer, in recalling the sight. has ever since felt), into a parting glance of deep affection ; and then, in an instant, all passed away. The writer can only compare the manner of the evanescence to the way in which a jet of steam is dissipated on exposure to cold air. Hardly, till then, did he realize that he had been brought into close communion with the Supernatural. The result was great awe, but no terror ; so that instead of retreating to his study, he went forward and opened the door, close to which the apparition had stood. Of course he could not doubt the import of what he had seen, and the morrow's or the next day's post brought the tidings that his friend had tranquilly passed out of this world, at the time when he was seen by the writer. It must be stated that it was a sudden summons : that the writer had heard nothing of him for some weeks previously, and that nothing had brought him to his thoughts on the day of his decease."

On [pages 134-136](#) of the same book, we are told of a son who left his family to become a sailor. The son's mother was suprised to see him, at half-past 10 on March 16, 1850, until he "seemed to fade away." A few weeks later word arrived that the son had died by drowning "on the very day, and at the very time, at which he had appeared to his mother."

David Belasco was the founder of the [Belasco Theater](#) which has operated in New York City for more than a hundred years. On

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- [cinema technology](#) (1)
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page 151 of the very interesting book *Noted Witnesses for Psychical Occurrences*, we read an account by David Belasco:

"I went to bed, worn out, in my Newport home, and fell at once into a deep sleep. Almost immediately, however, I was awakened and attempted to rise, but could not, and was then greatly startled to see my dear mother (whom I knew to be in San Francisco) standing close by me. As I strove to speak and to sit up she smiled at me a loving, reassuring smile, spoke my name — the name she called me in my boyhood — 'Davy, Davy, Davy,' then, leaning down, seemed to kiss me ; then drew away a little and said : 'Do not grieve. All is well and I am happy;' then moved toward the door and vanished...I went to luncheon during a recess, with a member of my staff, who handed me some letters and telegrams which he had brought from the box-office of the theatre. Among them was a telegram telling me that my darling mother had died the night before, at about the time I had seen her in my room."

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:34 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Friday, October 9, 2020

When an Apparition Is Seen by Not Just One

In five previous posts I discussed cases in which multiple witnesses reported seeing the same apparition. The five posts are below:

[When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 Cases](#)

[When an Apparition Is Seen by Multiple Observers: 17 More Cases](#)

[More Apparitions Seen by Multiple Observers](#)

[Many an Apparition Is Seen by More Than One](#)

[Still More Apparitions Seen by Multiple Observers](#)

Let us look at some more cases in which multiple witnesses reported seeing the same apparition. In the seances of Eusapia Palladino, which were witnessed by a host of distinguished observers, there would very often appear an apparition reported by multiple witnesses. The most common occurrence were "spirit hands" reported being seen by very many observers. Palladino would usually be under what was called "control" during such appearances, meaning that her arms and legs were held by observers determined to prevent such limbs from performing any trickery. Such "control" was almost irrelevant when apparitions were seen, because no one has a credible theory of how someone at that time (around 1900) surrounded by close observers could have produced hard-to-explain "spirit hands" or other apparitions, even if their limbs were free.

On page 185 of [Volume 7](#) of the *Annals of Psychical Science*

- [dwarf galaxy rotation anomaly](#) (1)
- [dystopia](#) (1)
- [early habitability epoch](#) (1)
- [early Universe](#) (2)
- [easy life hypothesis](#) (3)
- [education](#) (3)
- [elections](#) (1)
- [electromagnetic pulse attack](#) (1)
- [electromagnetism](#) (4)
- [electrons](#) (3)
- [EmDrive](#) (1)
- [emergence](#) (1)
- [EMP](#) (1)
- [end of the world](#) (5)
- [energy crisis](#) (3)
- [energy forecast](#) (1)
- [energy production](#) (2)
- [engrams](#) (12)
- [entropy](#) (3)
- [environmental degradation](#) (5)
- [epigenetics](#) (1)
- [ESP](#) (38)
- [esthetics](#) (1)
- [Ethics](#) (7)
- [Europa](#) (2)
- [evolution](#) (55)
- [experts](#) (10)
- [extent of paranormal beliefs](#) (1)
- [extrasolar planets](#) (7)
- [extraterrestrial life](#) (42)
- [extraterrestrials](#) (31)
- [faint young sun paradox](#) (2)
- [fast radio bursts](#) (1)
- [fate of the universe](#) (1)
- [Fermi's paradox](#) (7)
- [fine-tuned universe](#) (7)
- [Flynn effect](#) (1)
- [forecasting](#) (1)
- [Fourth Dimension](#) (1)
- [free will](#) (3)
- [fundamental constants](#) (5)
- [fundamental forces](#) (4)
- [funerals](#) (1)
- [future contrasts](#) (2)
- [future entertainment](#) (2)
- [future eras](#) (1)
- [future happiness](#) (2)
- [future movies](#) (1)
- [future of consciousness](#) (2)
- [future of man](#) (18)
- [future problems](#) (4)
- [future risks](#) (2)
- [future technology](#) (11)
- [future weapons](#) (1)

(1908), we read a statement by a V. Chartier who held Eusapia's right hand while an M.P. Drubay held her left hand:

"I am able to affirm, in the most formal and absolute manner, that at the moment when the phenomena of apparition of materialised hands occurred, I held Eusapia 's right hand in my left, and that I did not cease the control for a single instant . . . While continuing to watch the apparition, I instinctively grasped more firmly the right hand of Eusapia, which I held in my left hand, resting on the medium's right knee. . . . My neighbour on the right, M. Ebel, also asserted that he saw the materialised hand."

Beside such "spirit hands," sometimes full-body apparitions were seen by multiple observers during sessions with Eusapia Palladino. On page 175 of [Volume 7](#) of the Annals of Psychical Science (1908), we read the following about an apparition seen by multiple witnesses: "A woman of great beauty appeared, who had died two years before...The apparition was perceived by two others present. and returned several times." This could not have been Eusapia herself, who was not beautiful at the time, and apparently could not have been anyone else living, given precautions against fraud taken during such observation sessions.

On [page 440](#) of volume 5 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, we have an account of a daughter who saw an apparition of her mother seven days after her mother died. The apparition was also seen by a nurse, and by the daughter's father. A few pages later in the same volume, we have accounts of an apparition apparently seen by four people at different times. The [first person](#) recognized the apparition (a figure in a white dressing gown) as a particular Mrs. X. The other three persons (in the home of Mrs. X) saw the apparition as a woman in white attire or a figure enveloped in white (pages 442-445).

A 20th century case of an apparition seen by multiple witnesses is reported on page 254 of the book *The Gift* by Sally Rhine Feather and Michael Schmicke. We read the following (as quoted on page 2 of [this](#) paper):

"A woman and her fifteen-year-old daughter had recently moved to California from their previous home in Washington D.C., where they had left the woman's father very ill. One day not long after moving, they entered the dining room, and to the woman's great surprise, there stood her father. 'Why Dad, when did you get here?' she exclaimed. At that point, her daughter turned around to look, and she, too, saw the figure of her grandfather, his hand upraised in a gesture of greeting or perhaps blessing, but he slowly faded away, and they both suddenly realized that he was not really in California in their house. Shortly afterward, they received the news that he had

- [futurology](#) (2)
- [galactic empire](#) (1)
- [galaxies](#) (5)
- [galaxy formation](#) (6)
- [galaxy spin anomaly](#) (1)
- [gamma ray bursts](#) (2)
- [genes](#) (10)
- [genetic engineering](#) (11)
- [genetics](#) (9)
- [geoengineering](#) (2)
- [ghosts](#) (28)
- [ghosts.](#) (1)
- [global consciousness project](#) (2)
- [global food supply](#) (5)
- [global warming](#) (22)
- [GMO](#) (3)
- [God](#) (2)
- [Great Filter](#) (2)
- [grey goo](#) (1)
- [groupthink](#) (5)
- [habitable zone](#) (1)
- [hallucinogenic drugs](#) (1)
- [happiness](#) (1)
- [heart attack risk](#) (1)
- [heritability of intelligence](#) (1)
- [hierarchy problem](#) (1)
- [Higgs mass](#) (1)
- [higher dimension](#) (1)
- [holographs](#) (1)
- [homeopathy](#) (2)
- [homochirality](#) (2)
- [homosexuality](#) (2)
- [human body plan](#) (1)
- [human extinction](#) (2)
- [human history](#) (1)
- [human intelligence](#) (4)
- [human knowledge](#) (1)
- [hurricanes](#) (1)
- [hypermnesia](#) (1)
- [hyperthymesia](#) (2)
- [hypnotic trance](#) (8)
- [idealism](#) (3)
- [ideological regimes](#) (1)
- [immortality](#) (3)
- [inflation theory](#) (6)
- [information](#) (1)
- [integrated information theory](#) (1)
- [interplanetary travel](#) (1)
- [interstellar colonization](#) (3)
- [interstellar communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar radio communication](#) (1)
- [interstellar travel](#) (8)
- [Iraq war](#) (1)
- [Kepler Space Telescope](#) (2)

died."

Let us now look at some cases when an apparition is seen by many people. One such case is the sighting reported on pages 213-224 of [Volume 7](#) of the Annals of Psychical Science (1908). On page 213 we read this summary of the case:

"Hardly ever before has an apparition been watched by so many witnesses. Among them were several thoughtful and scientifically-educated men, who carried out the investigation with the greatest exactness and circumspection; and they unanimously came to the conclusion that fraud and deceit must be excluded, the fact of the apparition having been proved undeniably."

The story begins like this:

"Elisabetha Eslinger, a widow of thirty-nine years of age, from Baurenlautern, was imprisoned in Weinsberg, because of a small offence which was never quite cleared up. Soon afterwards, on Sept. 12th, Diener Mayer reported that the prisoner Eslinger complained of being tormented by a ghost every night."

Soon other people reported seeing the apparition:

"In the night of 17th-18th Sept., Oberamtsrichter Heyd was with Referendar Burger in Eslinger's prison cell, and they convinced themselves of the reality of the ghostly occurrences. The following night similar manifestations took place at the house of Oheramtsrichter Eckhardt, who had previously asked Eslinger to send the phantom to him. Again, in the course of December, six female and five newly-arrived male prisoners became witnesses of the apparition....Dr. Kerner's son passed the night of Dec. 26th-27th in a cell of the prison, and he, too, perceived the strange phenomena."

This Dr. Kerner pleaded for an investigation into the phenomenon. As a result, even more witnesses were involved:

"In consequence of this decision, the strange manifestations came under the observation of the following people: Professor Kapff, Kupferstecher Dullenhofer, Maler Wagner, Pfarrer Stookmayer, Rechtsanwalt Frass, Dr. Med. Sicherer, Baron Hugel von Eschenau, Pfarrer Meguin, Dr. Med. Kerner, Dr. Med. Seyffer, Oberamtsrichter Hevd-all of whom found themselves obliged to admit the truth of the occurrences. Besides this most valuable evidence, there is also that of Diener Mayer, of the soldier Krust and of three male prisoners, all of whom during the night of Jan. 13th-14th, 1836 (at a time, therefore, when Eslinger was no longer in the prison), witnessed these ghost-phenomena and bore testimony

- [Kepler-78b](#) (1)
- [ketamine](#) (1)
- [lambda cold dark matter theory](#) (5)
- [language acquisition](#) (1)
- [Large Hadron Collider](#) (2)
- [laws of nature](#) (5)
- [LCDM theory](#) (1)
- [leisure](#) (1)
- [levitation](#) (4)
- [life after death](#) (44)
- [life extension](#) (8)
- [Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment](#) (1)
- [Mad Scientist](#) (1)
- [Many Worlds theory](#) (6)
- [Mars](#) (11)
- [Mars lights](#) (4)
- [Mars strange objects](#) (8)
- [materialism](#) (7)
- [materialism as religion](#) (2)
- [mathematical universe hypothesis](#) (1)
- [mathematics](#) (2)
- [meat consumption](#) (1)
- [medical technology](#) (2)
- [mediums](#) (13)
- [mega-tsunami](#) (1)
- [memory](#) (41)
- [memory implant](#) (1)
- [memory retrieval](#) (3)
- [memory traces](#) (16)
- [mental differences between animals and humans](#) (1)
- [meta-analysis](#) (1)
- [meteor](#) (1)
- [methodological naturalism](#) (1)
- [METI](#) (1)
- [mind](#) (7)
- [mind linking](#) (1)
- [mind over matter](#) (2)
- [mind uploading](#) (5)
- [mind-reading](#) (4)
- [miracles](#) (1)
- [missing heritability problem](#) (1)
- [molecular biology](#) (2)
- [MOND](#) (1)
- [morphic gravitation](#) (1)
- [morphogenesis](#) (8)
- [multiverse](#) (21)
- [mutations](#) (1)
- [mystery of existence](#) (1)
- [nanotechnology](#) (1)
- [natural history](#) (3)
- [natural selection](#) (24)
- [naturalism](#) (2)
- [nature](#) (2)

to them."

The apparition was apparently not only seen in a prison cell, but also in the houses of multiple people. We read the following:

"On several nights, between Dec. 19th, 1835, and Jan. 28th, 1836, the phantom appeared, invited and uninvited, in far-off houses, even in Heilbronn, which is three-quarters of a German mile distant, and made itself perceptible in the same way as in the prison."

We are given the exact names and dates relating to those who received these "phantom visitations." We read the following:

"The following are the names of the receivers of these ghost visits : Oberamtsgerichts-Beisitzer Theurer (30-12-1835). Lehrer Neuffer (30-12-1835), to whom the phantom came by chance; that is to say, on the occasion of another visit it paid in the same house.

Referendar Burger (30-12-1835 and 13-1-1836), to whom the phantom showed himself twice by request.

Burger Kumel and his son. Landschaftsmaler Dorr, at Heilbronn (29-12-1835).

Professor Kapff, at Heilbronn, to whom the phantom came four times uninvited.

Baron Hugel von Eschenau. Dr. Kerner, at whose house it often appeared in order to convince Kerner's wife and sister-in-law (Dec. 19, 21, 26, 1835; Jan. 20, 21, 24, 27, 1836)."

Here is how the apparition appeared to Elisabetha Eslinger:

"The phantom, which had first shown itself as a misty column, appeared now to her in the form of a man, wrapped in long drapery held together with a belt, and on his head he wore a four-cornered cap" (page 217). On page 218 we read this description of the apparition by witness Christine Wurmer: "I saw during the prayer that a luminous figure moved towards her, in appearance like a man, which was soon followed by two other luminous forms, small, like little clouds." On page 220 we read this description of the apparition by witness Elisabetha Neidhardt: "a luminous form of a man in white garments." On page 221 a Professor Kapff reports that he "saw a luminous appearance of indistinct shape, three to four feet wide, and about the height of the door." These are only some of many witness reports involving such an apparition that appear on these pages and surrounding pages. Multiple witnesses report gusts of cold air in connection with the apparition.

On [page 149](#) of the long fascinating 1866 book *The Night Side of Nature* by Catherine Crowe we have this account: "Two young ladies staying at the Queen's Ferry arose one morning early to bathe; as they descended the stairs, they each

- [near death experience](#) (21)
- [Neptune](#) (1)
- [neuroscience](#) (45)
- [neutrino](#) (2)
- [neutron](#) (1)
- [non-local consciousness](#) (1)
- [nonneuralism](#) (1)
- [nuclear energy](#) (2)
- [nuclear war](#) (4)
- [nucleosynthesis](#) (1)
- [observer selection effect](#) (1)
- [ocean acidification](#) (1)
- [optogenetics](#) (1)
- [orbs](#) (9)
- [origin of biological complexity](#) (15)
- [origin of flying animals](#) (2)
- [origin of language](#) (7)
- [origin of life](#) (34)
- [origin of man](#) (7)
- [origin of Mind](#) (13)
- [origin of sex](#) (1)
- [out-of-body experience](#) (2)
- [overblown hype](#) (27)
- [overconfidence](#) (6)
- [overconsumption](#) (9)
- [overpopulation](#) (8)
- [overshoot and collapse](#) (1)
- [p-hacking](#) (1)
- [P/2013 R3](#) (1)
- [paleontology](#) (2)
- [pandemic](#) (2)
- [panpsychism](#) (4)
- [panspermia](#) (4)
- [paradoxes](#) (1)
- [parallel universes](#) (3)
- [paranormal healing](#) (1)
- [paranormal phenomena](#) (99)
- [paraverse](#) (1)
- [pareidolia](#) (1)
- [particle collisions](#) (1)
- [particle physics](#) (14)
- [peak coal](#) (3)
- [peak oil](#) (5)
- [peer review](#) (1)
- [phantom events](#) (1)
- [philosophical zombie](#) (1)
- [philosophy](#) (33)
- [philosophy of mind](#) (19)
- [philosophy of science](#) (3)
- [photography](#) (2)
- [physicalism](#) (2)
- [physics](#) (20)
- [pigs](#) (1)
- [planetoids](#) (1)
- [plant intelligence](#) (1)
- [pollution](#) (4)

exclaimed, 'There's my uncle !' They had seen him standing by the clock. He died at that time."

On [page 150](#) of the same book, we are told that in New Orleans a man heard another man report seeing the man's brother. Looking around, the man stated that he had also seen his brother, who was believed to be in England. We are told "the young man died at that time in England."

On [page 152](#) of the same book, we have this account:

"Three young ladies, two of them her daughters, assembled in their bedroom to talk over the evening's amusement. Suddenly, one of them cried, 'O God ! my mother.' They all saw her pass across the room towards a chest of drawers, where she vanished. They immediately told their friends what they had seen; and afterwards learned that the lady died that night."

On [page 222](#) of the same book, we have this account:

"A remarkable circumstance occurred, about forty years ago, in the family of Dr. Paulus at Stuttgard. The wife of the head of the family having died, they, with some of their connexions, were sitting at table a few days afterwards, in the room adjoining that in which the corpse lay, when suddenly the door of the latter apartment opened, and the figure of the mother, clad in white robes, entered, and saluting them as she passed, walked slowly and noiselessly through the room, and then disappeared again through the door by which she had entered. The whole company saw the apparition ; but the father, who was at that time quite in health, died eight days afterwards."

On [page 346](#) of the same book, we have this account of four people seeing an apparition at a house that had the reputation of being a haunted house:

"The following more recent case of an apparition, seen in the window of the same house from the outside, by four credible witnesses who had the opportunity of scrutinizing it for more than ten minutes, is given on most unquestionable authority. One of these witnesses is a young lady, a near connexion of the family, who, for obvious reasons, did not sleep in the house ; another, a respectable man, who has been many years employed in, and is foreman of, the manufactory; his daughter, aged about seventeen ; and his wife, who first saw the object, and called out the others to view it. The appearance presented was that of a bareheaded man, in a flowing robe like a surplice, who glided backwards and forwards about three feet from the floor, or level with

- [polygamy](#) (1)
- [pork eating](#) (1)
- [post-scarcity economy](#) (1)
- [precognition](#) (12)
- [predictions](#) (4)
- [primordial fluctuations](#) (1)
- [primordial singularity](#) (1)
- [problem of evil](#) (5)
- [prognostication](#) (2)
- [programmed material universe](#) (8)
- [protein folding](#) (5)
- [psychokinesis](#) (5)
- [psychology experiments](#) (1)
- [psychometry](#) (2)
- [pulsars](#) (1)
- [qigong](#) (1)
- [quantum biology](#) (1)
- [quantum computer universe](#) (1)
- [quantum gravity](#) (1)
- [quantum mechanics](#) (6)
- [quasar polarization vector alignments](#) (1)
- [quasars](#) (1)
- [racism](#) (1)
- [radical abundance](#) (1)
- [random universes](#) (2)
- [randomness](#) (2)
- [receptacle theory of consciousness](#) (3)
- [recolonization of Earth](#) (1)
- [recommended books](#) (11)
- [Reddit](#) (1)
- [reductionism](#) (2)
- [reincarnation](#) (3)
- [rejuvenation](#) (2)
- [remote viewing](#) (7)
- [reproducibility crisis](#) (2)
- [requirements underestimation](#) (4)
- [resource depletion](#) (5)
- [retrocognition](#) (1)
- [RNA world hypothesis](#) (1)
- [robotics](#) (3)
- [robots](#) (14)
- [rogue planet](#) (1)
- [savants](#) (4)
- [scarcity](#) (1)
- [science and ethics](#) (2)
- [science and religion](#) (1)
- [science fiction](#) (104)
- [Science fiction stories](#) (121)
- [science fiction story](#) (118)
- [science journalism](#) (5)
- [scientific consensus](#) (3)
- [scientific explanation](#) (2)
- [scientific explanations](#) (7)

the bottom of the second story window, seeming to enter the wall on each side, and thus present a side view in passing. It then stood still in the window, and a part of the figure came through both the blind, which was close down, and the window, as its luminous body intercepted the view of the framework of the window. It was semi-transparent, and as bright as a star, diffusing a radiance all around. As it grew more dim, it assumed a blue tinge, and gradually faded away from the head downwards. The foreman passed twice close to the house under the window, and also went to inform the family, but found the house locked up. There was no moonlight, nor a ray of light visible anywhere about, and no person near."

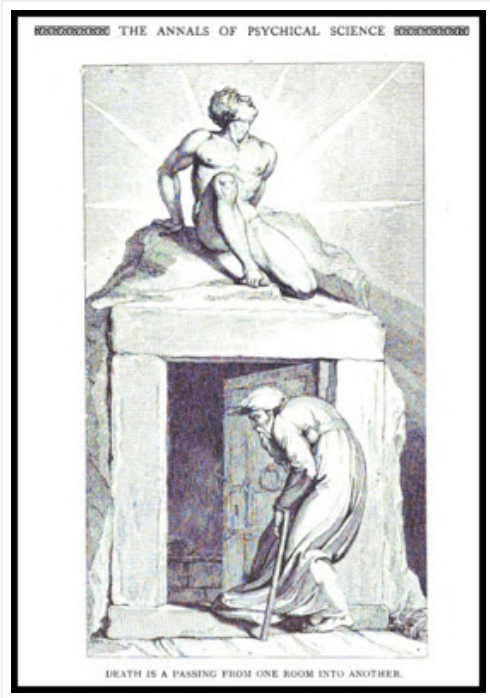
On [page 358](#) of the same book, we have this account of an apparition seen by two observers:

"Dr. Kerner mentions a very similar fact, wherein an advocate and his wife were awakened by a noise and a light, and saw a beautiful child enveloped by the sort of glory that is seen surround-
ing the heads of saints. It disappeared, and they never had a repetition of the phenomenon, which they afterwards heard was helieved to recur eveiy seven years in that house and to be connected with the cruel murder of a child by his mother."

On [pages 14-15](#) of the very interesting book *Noted Witnesses for Psychic Occurrences* by Walter Franklin Prince, we have an account by James Ludovic Lindsay, a scientist, Parliament member and President of an astronomical society:

"That evening I missed the last train at the Crystal Palace, and had to stay at Norwood, and I got a shakedown on a sofa in Home's room. ...Then I saw at the foot of my sofa a female figure, standing en profile to me. I asked Home if he saw anything, and he answered, 'a woman, looking at me.'...I saw the features perfectly, and impressed them upon my memory. She seemed to be dressed in a long wrap, going down from the shoulders, and not gathered in at the waist. Home then said, 'It is my wife ; she often comes to me.' And then she seemed to fade away. . . The next morning, before I went to London, I was looking at some photographs, and I recognized the face I had seen in the room up-stairs overnight. I asked Mrs. Jencken who it was, and she said it was Home's wife."

- [scientific literature](#) (2)
- [scientific process](#) (7)
- [scientific speculation](#) (9)
- [scientific theories](#) (5)
- [scientific theory](#) (5)
- [scientist misconduct](#) (1)
- [scientist subculture](#) (1)
- [self](#) (1)
- [self-consciousness](#) (2)
- [sensationalism](#) (1)
- [SETI](#) (16)
- [sex](#) (1)
- [sexism](#) (1)
- [shopping](#) (1)
- [short radio bursts](#) (1)
- [simulated universe](#) (6)
- [Singularity](#) (8)
- [skepticism](#) (9)
- [slavery](#) (1)
- [social media](#) (1)
- [social security](#) (1)
- [social trends](#) (1)
- [sociology of science](#) (13)
- [software development](#) (5)
- [solar flares](#) (1)
- [solar system](#) (1)
- [soul](#) (4)
- [space colonization](#) (2)
- [space station](#) (2)
- [sports of the future](#) (1)
- [STARGATE program](#) (1)
- [starships](#) (1)
- [stem cells](#) (1)
- [string theory](#) (6)
- [subsidies](#) (1)
- [sun](#) (1)
- [supercomputer](#) (3)
- [superintelligence](#) (7)
- [supermen](#) (2)
- [supernovae](#) (2)
- [supersymmetry](#) (9)
- [surveillance state](#) (1)
- [synapse theory of memory](#) (7)
- [taxes](#) (1)
- [technological innovations](#) (1)
- [teleology](#) (4)
- [teleportation](#) (1)
- [theism](#) (3)
- [theories of mind](#) (7)
- [theories of the future](#) (3)
- [theories of the universe](#) (4)
- [theories of time](#) (3)
- [theories of truth](#) (1)
- [theory of accelerating progress](#) (1)
- [theory of consciousness](#) (8)



Artwork by William Blake

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:39 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [mediums](#), [paranormal phenomena](#), [soul](#)

Thursday, October 1, 2020

When Apparitions "Break the Mold"

On this blog I have collected two main types of accounts of apparitions:

(1) cases in which someone was surprised to see an apparition of someone thought to be alive, only to soon find out the person had died about the time the apparition was seen (examples such as we can read [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#));

(2) cases in which an apparition was seen by more than one observer (examples such as we can read [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

In the annals of parapsychology, there are some interesting apparition cases that fall outside of such categories. One such case is the remarkable one discussed on page 102 of [Volume 1](#) of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research. We read the following:

"At the beginning of our researches we received tidings of a ghost which had been seen within the last few years by an artist at his studio in Chelsea. Having obtained an introduction, two of our number called upon him, and received from him a very striking and circumstantial account of his experiences. The apparition was seen in broad daylight; it appeared to him, during his three years' tenancy of the studio, over a hundred times. He was in his ordinary health throughout this period, and neither before nor since had ever

- [things science cannot explain](#) (5)
- [third man factor](#) (1)
- [time dilation](#) (1)
- [time travel](#) (3)
- [tininess of human knowledge](#) (16)
- [top-down theory of mind](#) (1)
- [Transhumanism](#) (3)
- [Twitter](#) (1)
- [types of universes](#) (2)
- [UFO](#) (9)
- [UFOs](#) (8)
- [universe](#) (8)
- [vacuum](#) (3)
- [vacuum catastrophe](#) (3)
- [vegetarianism](#) (2)
- [Venus](#) (1)
- [Venus colonization](#) (1)
- [videos](#) (1)
- [virtual reality](#) (2)
- [vitalism](#) (3)
- [von Neumann probes](#) (2)
- [water memory](#) (1)
- [wealth inequality](#) (4)
- [weddings](#) (1)
- [white holes](#) (1)
- [wormhole](#) (1)

seen anything of the kind. The circumstances were such as to preclude all possibility of deception, and the figure itself was so distinct and lifelike that he succeeded in producing a portrait of it. A rough sketch of this portrait-which is now in the possession of the Society-represents a young man of about twenty-five, with the right arm torn away from the shoulder, and a strangely mournful, pleading expression in the eyes. Our informant was perfectly clear in his account; and the minute examination to which we subjected him failed to disclose any inconsistencies. Further, it was impossible to question his good faith. That he was fully convinced he did actually see what he described to us is a matter which, in our judgment, does not admit of doubt."

This account is very untypical in the sense that normally an apparition will appear only once to an observer. But here we have someone claiming to have seen an apparition over a hundred times.



Another type of untypical account is when someone sees an apparition of someone who is not yet dead. We get such an account on [page 212](#) of Volume IV of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, where we read the following, told by the distinguished evolution expert G. J. Romanes:

"Towards the end of March, 1878, in the dead of the night, while believing myself to be awake, I thought the door at the head of my bed was opened and a white figure passed along the side of the bed to the foot, where it faced about and showed me it was covered head and all in a shroud. Then with its hands it suddenly parted the shroud over the face, revealing between its two hands the face of my sister, who was ill in another room. I exclaimed her name, whereupon the figure vanished instantly. Next day (and certainly on account of the shock given me by the above experience), I called in Sir W. Jenner, who said my sister had not many days to live."

On [page 48](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of another case of an apparition of someone who was still alive. He quotes this report from an English correspondent:

"For some days a report has spread that a suite of the House of Commons, giving upon the speaker's courtyard, was haunted. Nothing was said as to whether the specter had ever ventured into the lobbies of the House. Several members of Parliament grew uneasy. The truth was at last discovered. The phantom is not a ghost, but the double of a person still living. And this person is none other than the wife of one of the principal office-holders of Westminster Palace, Mr. Archibald Milman, secretary of the House of Commons (at a salary of 38,000 francs). Mrs. Milman tells in these words the story of her specter: 'The strangest thing about it is that it is true. It has lasted for years. I am afflicted with another self, that people meet in places where I am not. The other day a friend took leave of me in the work-room in which I give myself up to a passion for binding books. Scarcely had he stepped out at the door, when he found me again on the landing of the stairway. Dumfounded, he shrank aside to let me pass. I had not stirred....This very day a young woman living with us saw me in the courtyard, without my having left the house.' "

On [page 63](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we read of another case of an apparition of someone who was still alive. Some people tried an experiment in which one person tried to project an apparition of himself so that another person could see it. This reportedly resulted in just such an apparition being seen at the arranged time, by not just one person but two people. On [page 69](#) Flammarion cites another such experiment. A male tried an experiment in which he tried to project his image to a female. The female saw an apparition corresponding to the male, and was so shocked that she fainted. On [page 70](#) Flammarion discusses a similar experiment in which Frederic Myers attempted to project an apparition of himself to Stainton Moses. Moses reported that the experiment succeeded, and that at the time such an attempt was made, Moses saw an apparition of Myers.

Based on these accounts and others he cites, Flammarion stated this on [page 66](#): "It can no longer be doubted that human beings possess fluid phantasms which may, under certain conditions, become visible and tangible."

On [page 126](#) of the book *Contact with the Other World* by James H. Hyslop, we have another account suggesting the idea of an apparition of someone appearing before the person died:

"The knock was heard by both mother and daughter. On opening the door with the least loss of time possible, my grandmother was surprised to find not only no one there, but no one even in the long corridor which led to the drawing room. My mother distinctly remembered the look of astonishment in her mother's face as she returned from the

door. Nothing more was said on the subject, but in a short time afterwards a letter was received from London from my grandmother's sister, saying that she (the sister) had been most seriously ill, at death's door indeed, but was now a little better, and wished my grandmother to come and see her. The latter went up to town and found her sister still very ill, but slowly recovering. After the mutual endearments natural to such an occasion, my grandmother said: 'Do you know, such a strange thing occurred, exactly at the time, it seems, when you were supposed to be dead or dying.' 'I know what you are going to say,' said the other. 'When I was in the trance which was mistaken for death, I thought I went to your house in the Isle of Wight and knocked at your drawing room door. You opened it instantly and looked much affrighted at not seeing me or any one, though I saw you.' The singular point in the story is the anticipation by the one sister of what the other was going to say."

The account below is from [page 33](#) of the Volume 7 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research. We read of an accidental death, and a woman's vision of that death. After reading that while working on a tug boat an Edmund Dunn "fell or was thrown overboard by the towline, and drowned," we read this account by a Mrs. Paquet who was Edmund's sister:

"As I turned around my brother Edmund — or his exact image — stood before me and only a few feet away. The apparition stood with back toward me, or, rather, partially so, and was in the act of falling forward — away from me — seemingly impelled by two ropes or a loop of rope drawing against his legs. The vision lasted but a moment, disappearing over a low railing or bulwark, but was very distinct. I dropped the tea, clasped my hands to my face, and exclaimed, 'My God! Ed. is drowned.' At about half- past ten a. m. my husband received a telegram from Chicago, announcing the drowning of my brother."

It is not very rare for people to see an apparition of someone appearing at about the time the person died. I have collected more than 200 such accounts, which you can read using the links I gave earlier in this post. But it is rare for someone to see an apparition that is rather like a scene displaying how the person died.

Another rare type of apparition is the one described below on [page 94](#) of his book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion. We read an account by a Antoine Hornung of Geneva:

"One morning, some months ago, when I was in bed, wide awake, my eyes turned toward a mirror near me. In one of its panels I saw, very distinctly, the head and features of a person

whom I had known very well some years before, — a most friendly relationship which had been broken off in consequence of calamitous circumstances. This person had left Geneva for her own distant country, and I had never had any news of her. When I saw her in the mirror looking at me fixedly, I felt, though frightened, a certain happiness; I sat up in bed, talking to her, asking her if it were really she. Her features, rather hard, softened, her eyelids fluttered with pleasure, and a peaceful smile appeared on her lips. I kept on looking at her, but the vision vanished. Some days afterward, I learned that this person had died at that precise date."

The "learning of someone's death through an apparition" is one I have read countless times before, but this is the first time I can recall reading of someone seeing an apparition in a mirror. Another way in which an apparition can "break the mold" is when an apparition of someone appears shortly before the person's death, rather than at the same time or shortly thereafter. One case of such a thing appears on [pages 440-441](#) of Volume 11 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research. We read the following:

"A white figure passed along the side of the bed to the foot, where it faced about and showed me it was covered head and all in a shroud. Then with its hands it suddenly parted the shroud over the face, revealing between its two hands the face of my sister, who was ill in another room. I exclaimed her name, whereupon the figure vanished instantly. Next day (and certainly on account of the shock given me by the above experience), I called in Sir W. Jenner, who said my sister had not many days to live. (She died, in fact, very soon afterwards.)"

On [page 123](#) of the book *Death and Its Mystery: At the Hour of Death* by the astronomer Camille Flammarion, we have an account told by a Madame Dobelmann. Again, we read of an apparition of someone appearing not at the moment of that person's death, but somewhat beforehand (in this case, a single day earlier). We read the following:

"My friend Madame Turban was taking care of a younger sister who was ill... Soon they lost hope of saving her. One Sunday afternoon she expressed to her sister her great regret at never having heard her fiance, the pastor several leagues from there, preach. She fell into catalepsy, and lay for two hours as one dead. When she awakened she told of having seen her fiance, and of having heard him preach in such and such a way. She died the next day. After the burial Madame Turban asked the fiance if on Sunday afternoon he had preached on such and such a subject. Stmck by her question, and very much surprised, he asked, 'How do you know that!' — 'Your fiance told me.' — 'It's very strange,' he answered. 'Just imagine — in

the middle of my sermon I thought I saw a white form enter the church, which resembled my fiancée; she sat down in an empty seat in the midst of the assembly, and disappeared toward the end of the service.' "

On [page 309](#) of the book *Apparitions and Thought Transference* by Frank Podmore, we have an account of an apparition sighting that is very unusual in that the person seeing the apparition did not recognize the person corresponding to the apparition, but only identified the person after seeing a photo of the person. Here is the account:

"The facts are simply these. I was sleeping in a hotel in Madeira in January 1885. It was a bright moonlight night. The windows were open and the blinds up. I felt some one was in my room. On opening my eyes, I saw a young fellow about twenty-five, dressed in flannels, standing at the side of my bed and pointing with the first finger of his right hand to the place I was lying in. I lay for some seconds to convince myself of some one being really there. I then sat up and looked at him. I saw his features so plainly that I recognised them in a photograph which was shown me some days after. I asked him what he wanted ; he did not speak, but his eyes and hand seemed to tell me I was in his place. As he did not answer, I struck out at him with my fist as I sat up, but did not reach him, and as I was going to spring out of bed he slowly vanished through the door, which was shut, keeping his eyes upon me all the time. Upon inquiry I found that the young fellow who appeared to me died in that room I was occupying."

On [pages 156-157](#) of the book *Contact with the Other World* by James H. Hyslop, we have an account of a daughter who (when she did not know her mother was dead) saw an unusual apparition of her mother: one in which her mother appeared dead (not ghost-like as in a typical apparition sighting), and in which a remote scene appeared as if a movie had been projected on a wall:

"The wall opposite me seemed to open, and I saw my mother lying dead on her bed in her little house....Some flowers were at her side and on her breast: she looked calm, but unmistakably dead, and the coffin was there. It was so real that I could scarcely believe that the wall was really brick and mortar, and not a transparent window — in fact, it was a wall dividing the hotel in which we were living from the Carabinieri."

On [page 159](#) of the same book, we have this unusual account by an A. B. Weymouth who had made a pact with a Jennie D. that whoever died first would appear to the other:

"On Saturday evening, October 22, 1910, I retired to rest soon after nine o'clock. After refreshing sleep I awoke, with the impression that something unusual was about to happen. Then I distinctly heard a voice saying: 'Jennie D. is coming.' A few moments later, something like a bright cloud appeared in my bedroom. In the midst of the cloud I recognized the form of my long lost friend. While hovering in the air she sang two verses sweetly. Then other spirit forms appeared (the faces not recognized) and joined in the refrain. I had never heard the words or the music before; and I regret that I cannot recall the words. They were very beautiful and so was the melody. When the music ceased, the bright cloud and the celestial visitors disappeared and my room was dark again."

The account "breaks the mold" both in its musical aspect and also in there appearing multiple apparitions rather than just one.

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at 7:15 AM

No comments:



Labels: [apparition](#), [ghosts](#), [life after death](#), [paranormal phenomena](#)

Sunday, September 27, 2020

A Seance Prediction Matching a Senator's Most Unlikely Fate

Let us now look at seven very interesting cases that are well worthy of attention, even though they are almost never mentioned in the literature of parapsychology.

The Skeptic Who Kept Hearing Glorious Celestial Music

I will now discuss a case described on [pages 207-210](#) of Volume 1, Number 3 of the *Psychical Review* (February 1893). It involves a man of some prestige and achievement who is not named but merely described as follows:

"I shall first relate some of the experiences of a gentleman eminent for his attainments in mechanical science, so eminent that in this regard he has now a national reputation among those in the same line of work. A friend and student of Herbert Spencer, on the further side of the middle milestone of life, sceptical by nature and training, a successful inventor, with his mind engrossed in the management of a large manufactory, he is the last person in the world to become the victim of imagination. "

We are told that this accomplished figure heard glorious mysterious music from no known source:

"These subjective harmonies exceeded by far anything he had ever conceived. They were heralded by long, soft, sweet chords

like those which a number of bugles might produce. Other instruments joined, weaving in their sinuous, heart-piercing melodies until the volume of sweet concerted sound flooded the overpowered senses almost to the point of producing unconsciousness. The rapt listener instinctively feels that, were the ecstasy too much prolonged, on its wings the soul would float away from the senseless body. This music is not precisely like anything he has ever heard from visible orchestras. It sounds more like the violoncello and the organ than anything else. Beyond description grand, noble, majestic, like so-styled sacred music, it is never heard gay or trivial, save that sometimes it is a little like the richer, loftier tones of a heavy opera. Following the first few strains of the orchestra are voices, forming a full chorus and taking all the parts, male and female. Sometimes there are duets, sometimes solos, again responsive services from one side and then another. At times there is a tenor of remarkable sweetness and clarity 'like nothing I ever heard or dreamed,' said he, 'a voice to be recognized among a thousand.' The music comes to his inner ear, though apparently, like external music, unannounced and unexpected. It is of short duration — a few moments, at the longest."

The same accomplished figure experienced strange visions:

"Gazing into limitless space, he sees a shining golden vista peopled with angelic forms and glorious faces luminous with 'the light that never was on sea and land.' They are the singers draped in flowing robes of grace and beauty. Love on earth and in heaven, and peace, good-will, and joy are the themes which are felt, but are untranslatable into mortal language."

The Woman Who Saw a Very Distant Death

The account below is told on [pages 159-160](#) of Volume 2 of the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, and in the account a woman [relates](#) what was told her by an Elizabeth Broughton:

"She woke one night and roused her husband, telling him that something dreadful had happened in France. He begged her to go to sleep again and not to trouble him. She assured him she was not asleep when she saw what she insisted on then telling him — what she saw, in fact. First a carriage accident, which she did not actually see, but what she saw was the result, a broken carriage, a crowd collected, a figure gently raised and carried into the nearest house, and then a figure lying on a bed, which she then recognised as the Duke of Orleans. Gradually friends collecting round the bed, among them several members of the French Royal family — the Queen, then the King — all silently, tearfully watching the evidently dying Duke. One man (she could see his back, but did not know who

who he was) was a doctor. He stood bending over the Duke, feeling his pulse, his watch in his other hand. And then all passed away : she saw no more. As soon as it was daylight she wrote down in her journal all she had seen. From that journal she read this to me. It was before the days of electric telegraph, and two or more days passed before the Times announced 'The death of the Duke of Orleans.' Visiting Paris a short time afterwards, she saw and recognised the place of the accident, and received the explanation of her impression. The doctor who attended the dying Duke was an old friend of hers ; and as he watched by the bed, his mind had been constantly occupied with her and her family. The reason of this was an extraordinary likeness — a likeness which had often led to amusing incidents — between several members of the Broughton family and members of the French Royal family who were present in the room. 'I spoke of you and yours when I got home,' said the doctor, 'and thought of you many times that evening. The likeness between yourselves and the Royal family was, perhaps, never so strong as that day when they stood there in their sorrow, all so natural ; father, mother, brothers, sisters, watching the dying son and brother. Here was the link between us, you see.' "

A Man Who Seemed to Know of a Very Distant Death

The account below is found on [pages 64-65](#) of the very interesting 1866 book *The Night Side of Nature* by Catherine Crowe, which has many accounts equally interesting:

"One of the most remarkable cases of presentiment I know is that which occurred, not very long since, on board one of her Majesty's ships, when lying off Ports-mouth. The officers being one day at the mess-table, a young Lieutenant P. suddenly laid down his knife and fork, pushed away his plate, and turned extremely pale. He then rose from the table, covering his face with his hands, and retired from the room. The president of the mess, supposing him to be ill, sent one of the young men to inquire what was the matter. At first Mr. P. was unwilling to speak, but, on being pressed, he confessed that he had been seized by a sudden and irresistible impression that a brother he had then in India was dead. 'He died,' said he, 'on the 12th of August, at six o'clock; I am perfectly certain of it!' No arguments could overthrow this conviction, which, in due course of post, was verified to the letter. The young man had died at Cawnpore, at the precise period mentioned."

Two Who Dreamed of a Distant Death the Day It Occurred

On [page 107](#) of the same very interesting book, we have a remarkable account of a mother and daughter who had a similar dream on the same night:

"To revert in the meanwhile to the subject of double dreams, I will relate one that occurred to two ladies, a mother and daughter, the latter of whom related it to me. They were sleeping in the same bed at Cheltenham, when the mother, Mrs. C, dreamt that her brother-in-law, then in Ireland, had sent for her; that she entered his room, and saw him in bed, apparently dying. He requested her to kiss him, but owing to his livid appearance, she shrank from doing so, and awoke with the horror of the scene upon her. The daughter awoke at the same moment, saying, 'Oh, I have had such a frightful dream!' 'Oh, so have I!' returned the mother; 'I have been dreaming of my brother-in-law!' 'My dream was about him too' replied Miss C. 'I thought I was sitting in the drawing-room, and that he came in wearing a shroud, trimmed with black ribbons, and approaching me he said., "My dear niece, your mother has refused to kiss me. but I am sure you will not be so unkind." 'As these ladies were not in habits of regular correspondence with their relative, they knew that the earliest intelligence likely to reach them, if he were actually dead, would be by means of the Irish papers; and they waited anxiously for the following Wednesday which was the day these journals were received in Cheltenham. When that morning arrived, Miss C. hastened at an early hour to the reading-room, and there she learnt what the dreams had led them to expect: their friend was dead; and they afterwards ascertained that his decease had taken place on that night."

A 1733 "Life Review"

One of the most common elements of near-death experiences is what is called a life review. The person having such a close brush with death will often report that he experienced a review of his life experiences, often occurring at some rapid rate. Long before such a term "near-death experience" was even commonly used, the 1866 book *The Night Side of Nature* reported a case of such a near-death life review occurring in 1733. The book states the following on [page 133](#):

"In the year 1733, Johaim Schwerzeger fell into a similar state of trance, after an illness, but revived. He said he had seen his whole life, and every sin he had committed, even those he had quite forgotten — everything had been as present to him as when it happened. He also lamented being recalled from the happiness he was about to enter into; but said that he had only two days to spend in this valley of tears, during which time he wished everybody that would, should come and listen to what he had to tell them. His before sunken eyes now looked bright, his face had the bloom of youth, and he discoursed so

eloquently that the minister said they had exchanged offices, and the sick man had become his teacher. He died at the time he had foretold."

The Slowly Vanishing Apparition

The following account appears on [pages 124-125](#) of the book *More Glimpses of the World Unseen* by Frederick George Lee:

"The following comes to me direct from the clergyman who saw the apparition described, whose letter is dated November 15, 1875, the Rev. Arthur Bellamy, B.A., vicar of Publow, Bristol : ' Some months ago I was suddenly awoke in the night-time, and saw, as I thought, a lady sitting by our bedside. She appeared to be about thirty years of age, and had a calm, thoughtful expression on her countenance. I was particularly struck with the great care with which she appeared to have arranged her hair. After watching the apparition, with feelings more of wonder than fear, it seemed to vanish slowly away. I was perfectly awake, and a light was burning in the room, so that a mere optical delusion was out of the question. In the morning I related the vision to my wife ; and, from my description, she had no doubt but that it was the spirit of an old schoolfellow who had recently died ; for my wife, some years previously, had agreed at school with the person in question, that the first who should die, should, if Almighty God permitted it, appear to the survivor. I asked my wife if her friend, whom she had not met for the last sixteen years, had any peculiarity when a girl ; and she replied, 'We used to tease her at school for devoting so much time to the arrangement of her hair.' "

The Senator and the Seance

On [pages 128-130](#) of the book *Contact with the Other World* by the distinguished researcher James H. Hyslop, we have a US senator's account of his experiences at a seance. Carl Schurz states he attended in Philadelphia a seance in which a young teenager of about 15 claimed to be in contact with the Other Side. Schurz asked that the spirit of the German poet Schiller might come forth. [The young girl wrote](#) that the spirit of Schiller had come and asked what was wished of him. Schurz requested that some lines be quoted from his works. The young girl wrote two lines in German. A check found such lines in a work by Schiller that the young girl was almost certainly unfamiliar with.

Schurz then asked that the spirit of Abraham Lincoln come forth. The girl wrote that Lincoln was ready. Schurz asked some questions, and eventually the [girl wrote the prediction](#) that Schurz would become a US senator from Missouri. Schurz writes the following:

"Hardly anything could have been more improbable at that time than that I should be a senator of the United States from Missouri. My domicile was in Wisconsin, and I was thinking of returning there. I had never thought of removing from Wisconsin to Missouri, and there was not the slightest prospect of my ever doing so. But — to forestall my narrative — two years later I was surprised by an entirely unsought and unexpected business proposition which took me to St. Louis, and in January, 1869, the legislature of Missouri elected me a senator of the United States. I then remembered the prophecy made to me at the spirit seance in the house of my friend Tiedemann in Philadelphia which, during the intervening years, I had never thought of. I should hardly have trusted my memory with regard to it, had it not been verified by friends who witnessed the occurrence."



Senator Carl Schurz (credit: US Senate Historical Office)

Posted by [Mark Mahin](#) at [7:26 AM](#)

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